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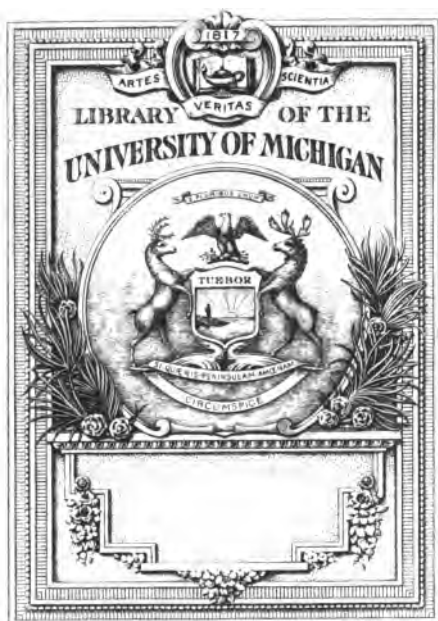
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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE

HELD IN CHICAGO

NOVEMBER 1888

Dup. 1920  
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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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THE proceedings of the National Board of Trade, at its Twentieth Annual Meeting, held in Chicago in November last, as contained in this volume, are respectfully and earnestly commended to the members of the commercial associations of the country, and to those who are charged with high executive and legislative responsibilities at Washington. As at preceding meetings of the Board, practical questions of great importance were discussed with intelligence and fairness by practical men, and the considerations presented as well as the conclusions reached by them are worthy of careful attention. The paper on Representation in the Board, and the discussion on Public and Private Indebtedness, and the place which its statistics should have in the forthcoming census of the United States, suggested topics of especial interest at this time. The difficult question of uniformity in the legislation of the several States in relation to the collection of debts, the charters of corporations, and the forms and certificates of deeds and other papers relating to conveyances and contracts, which was brought to the attention of the Board at its first annual meeting, and which has appeared several times since upon its programme, was debated at some length, and was referred to a special committee for consideration and consultation with committees of the Bar Associations having the same question before them.

For several years past the Board has held its meetings in Washington. Its twentieth meeting was held in Chicago, and its meeting next November is to be held in Louisville. Already, as the result of this closer contact with the commercial centres, several influential bodies have entered the membership, and there is good reason to believe that other important accessions will be made during the present year.

H. A. H.

Boston, March 2, 1889.



# CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE,

ADOPTED AT PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 5, 1868.

AND AS SINCE AMENDED.

---

## DECLARATION.

In order to promote the efficiency and extend the usefulness of the various Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, and other chartered bodies, organized for general commercial purposes, in the United States, in order to secure unity and harmony of action in reference to commercial usages, customs and laws; and especially, in order to secure the proper consideration of questions pertaining to the financial, commercial and industrial interests of the country at large, this Association, on this 5th day of June, 1868, is hereby formed by delegates now in session in the city of Philadelphia, representing the following-named commercial organizations, to wit:

Albany Board of Trade,	New York Chamber of Commerce,
Baltimore Board of Trade,	New York Produce Exchange,
Boston Board of Trade,	Oswego Board of Trade,
Boston Corn Exchange,	Peoria Merchants' Exchange,
Buffalo Board of Trade,	Philadelphia Board of Trade,
Charleston Board of Trade,	Philadelphia Commercial Exchange,
Chicago Board of Trade,	Pittsburg Board of Trade,
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.	Portland Board of Trade,
Cleveland Board of Trade,	Providence Board of Trade,
Denver Board of Trade,	Richmond Chamber of Commerce,
Detroit Board of Trade,	St. Louis Board of Trade,
Dubuque Produce Exchange.	St. Louis Union Merchants' Exch'ge,
Louisville Board of Trade,	St. Paul Chamber of Commerce,
Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce.	Toledo Board of Trade,
Newark Board of Trade,	Troy Board of Trade,
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce,	Wilmington (Del.) Board of Trade.

And the following Constitution is adopted:

## ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. This Association shall be designated the NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

## ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. Every local Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, or other body organized for general commercial, and not for special or private purposes, and duly chartered under State or National laws, shall be entitled to membership in this Association, on the approval of two-thirds of the bodies represented at any meeting of the Association, and shall be accorded the following representation: Each such Association having fifty members, who have the right to vote therein, shall be entitled to one delegate; having one hundred members, two delegates; having three hundred members, three delegates; and for each additional two hundred members above three hundred, one additional delegate.

SEC. 2. Delegates, who shall, in all cases, be active members of not less than one year's standing of the respective bodies which they represent, shall be selected by the local organization in such manner and for such term of not less than one year, as each may see fit. At each meeting of the Board they shall present credentials under seal from the Secretaries of their respective constituencies; these credentials shall certify the number of members authorized to vote, then connected with the body which is claiming representation, and which may present or may have a copy of its charter on file in this Board.

SEC. 3. Any local Board organized in any State where special charters cannot be had, shall be deemed to comply with the provisions of this article by filing with this Board a copy of its Articles of Association under State law, and of its Constitution and By-Laws.

## ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. On all questions before the Board, on which a vote is taken *viva voce*, or by division, each delegate present shall be entitled to one vote in person. In all voting by yeas and nays, the delegates of a constituent body who are present, shall have the right to cast as many votes as the number of delegates which the body they represent is entitled to send to the meeting, according to its officially reported membership; all yea and nay votes shall be fully recorded in the proceedings of the Board. A call for the yeas and nays may be ordered only on questions involving action by the Board on propositions of a public character, or on such as relate to amendments to the Constitution or to the By-laws of the Board, and only on the demand of a delegate supported by one-third of the constituent bodies represented in the meeting; each constituent body on this question being entitled to but one vote, which shall be recorded, All votes for elective officers shall be by ballot; each delegation present shall be entitled to one ballot, and upon this shall be stated the name of the constituent body by which it is cast, with the number of votes to which it is entitled, and the number of votes or fractions of a vote given for each candidate voted for, all of which shall be counted in making up the result.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The administration of the affairs of this Board shall be vested in a President and one Vice-President from each constituent body represented, who shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot on a majority of all the votes cast, and who shall serve until their successors are chosen. Their election shall be the first business in order. They shall be constituted and known as an Executive Council, and five of their number shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. In the absence or disability of the President, a Vice-President, to be designated by his associates, shall serve.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council, immediately after their election, to select a Secretary and a Treasurer (neither of whom shall be of their own number), who shall hold office for such time, and who shall receive such compensation as the Council shall determine.

SEC. 3. The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be located at such places as the Council shall determine.

SEC. 4. Special meetings of the Council shall be held on the call of seven members thereof, at such place as they may designate, on twenty days' notice to be given by the Secretary, which call shall state the object of the meeting.

SEC. 5. In case of the removal, resignation, or death of any member of the Council, his place for the unexpired term shall be promptly filled by the constituent association of which he was a member.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council: 1st. To provide for full and accurate records of the proceedings of the Board and of its own meetings. 2nd. To submit to each meeting a report of the doings of the Board and of its own official acts, as well as a statement of what new or unfinished business may require attention. 3rd. To make full statement, concerning the finances of the Board, to the regular meetings, and to other meetings, when called upon to do so. 4th. To apportion to each constituent body its assessment for the expenses of the Board, as provided elsewhere. 5th. To make such recommendations as it may deem to be necessary for the welfare, and to promote the objects, of the Board.

SEC. 2. The Secretary shall conduct the official correspondence and shall make and have charge of the records of the Board and of the Executive Council.

SEC. 3. The Treasurer shall give such security as the Executive Council may require, receive and account for all moneys belonging to the Board, and collect assessments and fines; but he shall pay out money and dispose of the property of the Board only on a warrant of the Secretary, countersigned by the President.



## ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. Meetings of the National Board of Trade shall be held in the city of Washington at such times as shall be determined by the Executive Council.

SEC. 2. Special meetings may be held on the call of eight members of the Executive Council, at such place as they may designate.

SEC. 3. The attendance of forty delegates shall constitute a quorum; *Provided*, That if a majority of the delegates accredited to and in attendance at any meeting shall be in number less than forty, such majority shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 4. Notice of meetings of the Board shall be served by the Secretary on each constituent body at least thirty days before the time appointed for assembling. The notice shall state the objects of the meetings and the questions to be considered.

SEC. 5. A meeting of the Executive Council shall be held on the day preceding the day of any meeting of the Board, and at such other times as may be provided in its By-laws.

## ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. The expenses of the Board shall be provided for by an assessment, to be made by the Executive Council, on each constituent body in proportion to the number of delegates which it is entitled to send to the meetings of the Board.

## ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. Questions or resolutions, except those which involve points of order or refer to matters of courtesy, can be submitted only by the constituent bodies of the Board, or by the Executive Council; and when any constituent body shall desire to present a subject for the consideration of the Board, it shall do so in a written paper to be placed in the hands of the Secretary at least forty days previous to the annual or special meeting at which it is to be considered; *Provided, however*, That any subject not thus submitted may be considered and acted upon by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present.

## ARTICLE IX.

SECTION 1. Any constituent body charged with a violation of the laws of this Board may, after a formal complaint thereof in writing, on a vote of two-thirds of all the delegates of the other bodies represented herein, be expelled; but it shall not be exempted from the payment of assessments levied for the year current.

SEC. 2. Any constituent body may withdraw from membership in the Board on submitting a formal request to that effect at any meeting of the Board or of the Executive Council, and on full payment of dues.

**SEC. 3.** In case any constituent body shall fail to be represented at two successive meetings of the Board, and also fail to pay its assessment for two years, it shall cease to be considered in membership.

**ARTICLE X.**

**SECTION 1.** This Constitution may be amended at any meeting, on a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present; notice of the proposed amendment having been first submitted to the Secretary by a constituent body, at least forty days previous to the meeting at which the same is to be considered, and transmitted by the Secretary in circular copies to each constituent body at least thirty days before said meeting.

**ARTICLE XI.**

**SECTION 1.** The provisions of this Constitution may be temporarily suspended, except as to a quorum, at any meeting of the Board, by unanimous consent of the delegates present and voting.

# BY-LAWS.

I. The following shall be the order of business at the meetings of the Board:

1st. The call of the roll.

2nd. The reading of the Reports of the Executive Council and the Treasurer.

3rd. The election of officers.

4th. The reception of papers from associations seeking admission to membership, to be referred to a Committee on Credentials to consist of five delegates, which shall have leave to sit during the sessions of the Board.

5th. The reception of letters from associations seeking to withdraw from the Board, to be referred to the same Committee.

6th. The consideration of any subjects proposed in the Report of the Executive Council, or in the hands of Committees appointed at a previous meeting.

7th. The consideration of the subjects on the Official Programme, in the order in which they are there placed, unless otherwise recommended by the Executive Council.

II. At each election, before the balloting for President, it shall be competent for delegates to make nominations for that office, and, before balloting for Vice-Presidents, each delegation present shall be called upon to make a nomination, and the [fourteen] persons whose names shall stand highest upon the ballot, provided that they have received a majority of all the votes cast, shall be declared to have been elected.

III. At the meetings of the Board no delegate shall speak more than ten minutes on one question, without the leave of the Board, nor more than twenty minutes without unanimous consent.

IV. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to carry the approval of the Board upon any proposition which may appear, or which may be placed upon the Official Programme.

V. The rules of the House of Representatives of the United States shall govern the deliberation of the Board, so far as they may be applicable and in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws.

VI. The annual assessments laid by the Executive Council shall be due and payable by each constituent body within thirty days after it shall have been officially notified of such assessment. No delegate shall be entitled to a seat, at any meeting of the Board, unless the constituent body to which he belongs shall have paid the assessment for the preceding year; and any constituent body participating in the proceedings of any meeting shall be held liable for the assessment of the current official year.

VII. The term of service, of not less than one year, for which delegates are elected, shall commence with the date of the meeting of the Board next ensuing after their election.

VIII. These By-Laws may be amended, at any meeting of the Board, on a two-thirds vote.

## MEMBERSHIP FOR 1888-89.

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BOSTON MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.  
BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF TRADE.  
BUFFALO MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.  
CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.  
CINCINNATI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
INDIANAPOLIS BOARD OF TRADE.  
LOUISVILLE BOARD OF TRADE.  
MILWAUKEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
MILWAUKEE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.  
MINNEAPOLIS BOARD OF TRADE.  
NEW HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.  
NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
OMAHA BOARD OF TRADE.  
PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.  
PORTLAND (ORE.) BOARD OF TRADE.  
PROVIDENCE BOARD OF TRADE.  
ROCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
SCRANTON BOARD OF TRADE.  
ST. LOUIS MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.  
ST. PAUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.  
TRENTON BOARD OF TRADE.  
WILMINGTON (DEL.) BOARD OF TRADE.

## OFFICERS FOR 1888-89.

### PRESIDENT.

FREDERICK FRALEY, . . . . . *Philadelphia.*

### VICE-PRESIDENTS.

JONATHAN A. LANE, . . . . . *Boston.*  
 S. STURGIS GUTHRIE, . . . . . *Buffalo.*  
 GEORGE M. HOW, . . . . . *Chicago.*  
 JOHN A. GANO, . . . . . *Cincinnati.*  
 HARRY WEISSINGER, . . . . . *Louisville.*  
 EDWARD P. BACON, . . . . . *Milwaukee.*  
 WILLIAM P. McLAREN, . . . . . *Milwaukee.*  
 A. J. BLETHEN, . . . . . *Minneapolis.*  
 N. D. SPERRY, . . . . . *New Haven.*  
 H. DUDLEY COLEMAN, . . . . . *New Orleans.*  
 AMBROSE SNOW, . . . . . *New York.*  
 JAMES S. T. STRANAHAN, . . . . . *New York.*  
 GEORGE M. NATTINGER, . . . . . *Omaha.*  
 BENJAMIN S. JANNEY, JR. . . . . *Philadelphia.*  
 D. P. THOMPSON, . . . . . *Portland, Ore.*  
 SIDNEY B. ROBY, . . . . . *Rochester.*  
 J. A. PRICE, . . . . . *Scranton.*  
 FRANK GAIENNIE, . . . . . *St. Louis.*  
 JAMES BUCHANAN, . . . . . *Trenton.*  
 MILO W. LOCKE, . . . . . *Wilmington, Del.*

### SECRETARY and TREASURER.

HAMILTON ANDREWS HILL, . . . . . *Boston.*



# TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

## NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

---

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the National Board of Trade was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, in the city of Chicago, Illinois, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 14th, 15th, and 16th of November, 1888.

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### FIRST DAY.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1888.

The Board was called to order at 12.15 P. M., by the President, Mr. FREDERICK FRALEY, of Philadelphia.

The roll was called by the Secretary, Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL, of Boston. As subsequently perfected, the list of delegates accredited to the meeting was as follows :

#### **Boston Merchants' Association.**

Jonathan A. Lane,	N. W. Farley.
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#### **Buffalo Merchants' Exchange.**

S. Sturges Guthrie,	James N. Adam,
John A. Kerr,	Wm. Thurstone.

#### **Chicago Board of Trade.**

George M. How,	Henry Botsford,
William T. Baker,	William J. Pope,
Geo. D. Rumsey,	William H. Beebe,
Carl Dreier,	Geo. H. Sidwell,
John H. Clough,	Chas. B. Vankirk,

Edw. S. Washburn.



## NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

**Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.**

John A. Gano,	Thomas Morrison,
Levi C. Goodale,	James D. Parker,
S. F. Dana,	John A. Townley,
C. M. Holloway,	Gazzam Gano,
Wm. H. Davis,	Earl W. Stimson,
Charles B. Murray.	

**Louisville Board of Trade.**

Harry Weissinger,	Charles T. Ballard,
Andrew Cowan,	George Gaulbert.

**Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce.**

Edward P. Bacon,	John Johnston,
F. H. Magdeburg,	E. B. Simpson.

**Milwaukee Merchants' Association.**

Wm. P. McLaren,	H. M. Mendel.
-----------------	---------------

**Minneapolis Board of Trade.**

C. M. Palmer,	A. J. Blethen.
---------------	----------------

**New Haven Chamber of Commerce.**

James D. Dewell,	N. D. Sperry,
T. Attwater Barnes.	

**New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.**

H. Dudley Coleman,	Breedlove Smith,
Louis Bush.	

**New York Board of Trade and Transportation.**

Ambrose Snow,	G. Waldo Smith.
F. B. Thurber,	W. H. Parsons.

**New York Chamber of Commerce.**

J. S. T. Stranahan,	F. A. Conkling,
A. Foster Higgins,	Wm. H. Lyon,
Wm. L. Strong.	

**Omaha Board of Trade.**

Geo. M. Nattinger,	Henry W. Rogers.
--------------------	------------------

**Philadelphia Board of Trade.**

Frederick Fraley,	Wm. M. Coates,
Benj. S. Janney, Jr.,	Wm. R. Tucker.

**Portland, (Oregon) Board of Trade.**

John McCracken, D. P. Thompson.

**Rochester Chamber of Commerce.**

Sidney B. Roby, H. H. Warner,  
J. Y. McClintock.

**Scranton Board of Trade.**

J. A. Price, Wm. T. Smith.

**St. Louis Merchants' Exchange.**

Chas. F. Orthwein,	John R. Lionberger,
Michael McEnnis,	B. D. Lee,
Frank Gaiennie,	Louis Fusz,
S. W. Cobb,	Geo. H. Morgan.

**Trenton Board of Trade.**

James Buchanan, William Dolton.

**Wilmington, (Del.) Board of Trade.**

Milo W. Locke.

Mr. How, of Chicago: I move that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to whom shall be referred applications for membership or any other communications in relation to membership.

The motion was agreed to, and the President appointed as such committee Messrs. How, of Chicago, JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati, and WM. P. McLAREN, of Milwaukee.

The PRESIDENT: I have received communications on the subject of membership from two organizations in St. Louis, from the Merchants' Exchange of Buffalo, from the Board of Trade of Omaha, from the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce of Denver, from the Board of Trade of Wilmington, Del., from the Board of Trade of Reading, from the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans, from the Chamber of Commerce of Dubuque, from the Board of Trade of Louisville, and possibly from one or two others.

The delegates who are here from those bodies will please communicate with Mr. How, and he will immediately report upon their admission, so that they can take part in the permanent organization of the Board.

The next business in order will be the reading of the report of the Executive Council.

The SECRETARY read the report of the Executive Council, as follows :

#### TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

The National Board of Trade having completed the twentieth year of its existence, it seems proper to recall in the present report of the Executive Council the circumstances under which the Board was organized, and the objects which its founders had in view and which its members, during all these years, have endeavored to fulfil.

Three meetings of the business men of the country were held in 1868, and they deserve mention as a part of the financial and commercial history of the United States. The first of the three was held in Boston on the 5th of February, and three following days. It was called by the Board of Trade of that city, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Detroit Commercial Convention of 1865, and at the subsequent request of prominent business men in several cities. The call was dated December 17, 1867; the basis of representation for the commercial bodies was fixed at one delegate for every fifty members; and the following subjects were presented for consideration :—

The improvement of our inland and interior means of transportation.

The adoption of an uniform system for the measurement of grain.

The adjustment of the currency question in a manner which will reconcile conflicting sectional views, while at the same time promoting the welfare of the whole country.

The restoration of the foreign commerce of the country from its present greatly depressed condition.

The organization of a National Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce.

And such other subjects, not of a local or political character, as may properly come before the convention.

The financial question was then uppermost in the minds of our most thoughtful men, whether in business circles or in public life, and the most interesting and earnest debates related to it. Some anxiety had been expressed, in anticipation of the meeting, as to the probable action of two or three hundred men thus brought together from all parts of the country except the extreme South, in a popular body, on a question so difficult, and upon which such divergence of opinion existed; but the result showed that there had been no good reason for any forebodings. The convention voted by a large majority, not only against an expansion of the currency, but, recognizing the necessity of contraction, in favor of funding the legal tender notes at the rate of three millions of dollars a month, beginning in 1869. It favored a free national banking system, as soon as, but not before, bank notes should be payable in gold or silver; and it recommended the enactment of a law by Congress, authorizing the making of written contracts payable in specie. It proposed the adoption of seven per cent. as a national and uniform rate of interest, in the absence of a contract for any other rate, and the abrogation of State usury laws; and it expressed renewedly the determination of the commercial community, to maintain the honor of the nation inviolate in the performance of every public engagement. This intelligent and conservative action, confirmed by the action year by year of the National Board of Trade, undoubtedly prepared the way for, and promoted, the Congressional legislation by which at length the national currency was restored to a gold basis.

The Boston Convention, while it illustrated the great advantage of bringing together the representative business men of the country, for the interchange of views, and for conjunct action, brought to notice also, as previous conventions had done, the disadvantages incident to such popular gatherings; and its members were unanimous in their resolution looking to the promotion of a permanent national association, a Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce, and asking the Boston Board of Trade to take the first steps to that end. This brings us to the second commercial meeting of 1868.

The Board of Trade and the Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia, through their presidents, Mr. John Welsh and Mr. E. Harper Jeffries, invited the Boston Board to call the meeting for the

organization of the proposed National Board in their city, and, accordingly, a call was issued for such a meeting to convene on the 3rd of June. Four days were profitably and pleasantly spent in discussing, almost sentence by sentence, and determining, the organic law which was to govern the procedure of the National Board of Trade, and in the enjoyment of the elegant hospitalities of the associations by whose invitation the meeting had been called, and of their municipal authorities. It was not proposed to transact general business at the Philadelphia meeting; but three or four questions were passed upon, on which there was a general agreement, and which were regarded as of pressing importance. The Boston resolutions in favor of the cental system for the measurement of grain were reaffirmed; a strong resolution was agreed to, for maintaining the Mississippi river as a national highway, free from its highest navigable point to its outlet, and against the collection of tolls at any of its lower passes by any private corporation. Two measures, then pending in Congress, were heartily supported; the one, reducing the internal revenue tax on whiskey to fifty cents a gallon, the other, permitting the direct importation of foreign merchandise to cities in the interior, without examination on the seaboard. The first of these measures became a law a few weeks later; the second, which was again acted upon at the first regular meeting of the Board, and in behalf of which special efforts were made in Washington by the Executive Council, was enacted by Congress the following year.

By the kind invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati, the first annual meeting of the National Board of Trade was held in that city in the month of December of the year which we are now reviewing. It was a successful meeting, well attended, and full of that enthusiasm which a new and generous purpose always awakens. The resolutions adopted related to Cash Sales of Produce; Immunity of Private Property at Sea, in Time of War; the Revival of American Commerce; the Resumption of Specie Payments; Ports of Entry in the Interior; the Pacific Railroads; the Mississippi River; the Erie and Oswego Canals; and the Civil Service of the United States.

It would be tedious to recite here, the action of the Board at its annual meetings since 1868. It is enough to say that the debates and resolutions of each year have had reference largely to ques-

tions prominent and pressing at the time in the business world. By a reference to the official programmes, it will be seen that some of these questions have disappeared from them, because, in the progress of events, their absolute or relative importance is less than formerly, and others, because Congress has responded favorably to the expressed wishes of the commercial bodies of the country. Still others retain their places upon the programme, in favor of which the Board has spoken so frequently that it may be said to have incorporated them into a platform of its own; as, for example, the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce, as an executive department of the General Government; the enactment of a national bankrupt law; uniformity of commercial law throughout the country; the revision of the tariff and internal revenue laws; the extension of our commercial relations with the Dominion of Canada; and the restoration of the American carrying trade upon the ocean, by legislation encouraging both the ownership and the construction of tonnage.

The present meeting of the Board is especially interesting for two reasons. After holding nine annual meetings at the seat of government, it has been thought best this year to assemble in one of the great commercial cities. One of the most difficult questions for the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention of 1868 to determine, was the place of meeting. It was finally decided to meet in a different city from year to year, in order to diffuse as widely as possible a general interest in the Board, and to secure the active sympathy and coöperation of the constituent associations in its work. In accordance with this decision, the Board met in 1868, as we have seen, in Cincinnati; in 1869, in Richmond; in 1870, in Buffalo; in 1871, in St. Louis; in 1872, in New York; in 1873, in Chicago; in 1874, in Baltimore; in 1875, in Philadelphia; in 1876, again in New York; and in 1877, in Milwaukee. There was no meeting of the Board in 1878; but the Executive Council held a meeting in Washington, in December of that year; it seemed best then, to propose that the annual meetings should be held in that city; and since 1879, until now, this has been the rule. After the lapse of eleven years, the Board finds itself again in the Northwest, and it must be that it will draw fresh inspiration as it comes into renewed contact, close and personal, with the enterprise, the public spirit and the patriotism of this and the neighboring communities.

Another consideration lends interest to the present meeting. A presidential campaign was ended only a week ago, the absorbing issues in which for the first time in this generation, were economic in their character, and not what we usually denominate political, except as for the time they became party questions. The whole country has been astir, in the discussion of questions of taxation and finance in their broadest national bearings; and it has seemed probable, for some time past, that whichever of the two great parties might succeed at the polls, the information spread, and the intelligence and interest enkindled, in relation to these questions, would give an impulse to economic legislation, and to the healthful growth of all the national industries. Just such knowledge, and just such intelligent interest, the various commercial associations, each in its own sphere, and this National Board of Trade, have been seeking to promote. All the instincts of broad-minded business men are in favor of full and free discussion, and of a fair judgment upon the facts, in every case. Questions of expediency, as to time and method, are decided at the polls; but principles are not determined by popular vote. If we can agree with reference to these, we have every encouragement to hope that our efforts to apply them will be, in the end, both harmonious and fruitful in the best results, and so, in due season bring the wholesome legislation,—

“That from Discussion’s lip may fall  
With Life, that, working strongly, binds—  
Set in all lights by many minds,  
To close the interests of all.”

The hasty retrospect we have taken in this report, brings to our remembrance many of our honored associates who have felt a deep interest in the welfare of this Board, but whose faces we shall see at its meetings no more. To mention them one by one, and to tell of their usefulness in the several communities in which they spent their busy lives, would be to present a record of mercantile integrity and ability of which any nation might well be proud, and to which the coming generation might be pointed for inspiration and emulation. Since our meeting in Washington in January last, one more name has been added to the roll of our departed. John Price Wetherill, of Philadelphia, has rarely been absent from our

gatherings during the last twenty years, and, when present, he has borne a leading part in our proceedings. He was a business man of careful training and ample experience, of generous sympathies and of unsullied reputation. He was called to many responsible trusts in his city and State, and he fulfilled them all with exceptional ability and fidelity. In the prosperity of this Board, he always manifested the liveliest interest. In his more private intercourse with his associates, he was cordial, courteous, genial. The place made vacant by his death, cannot soon or easily be filled.

In behalf, and by vote of the Executive Council,

FREDERICK FRALEY, of Philadelphia,  
*President.*

HAMILTON A. HILL, of Boston,  
*Secretary.*

CHICAGO, November 14, 1888.

The SECRETARY: At the meeting of the Executive Council, this morning, the following resolutions with reference to Mr. JOHN PRICE WETHERILL were adopted, and were ordered to be presented to the Board at this time:

*Whereas*, Since our last meeting, JOHN PRICE WETHERILL, of Philadelphia, an active member of this Board from the time of its organization, and for several years a Vice-President, has been removed from us by death;

*Resolved*, That we desire hereby to express our sense of the great loss which has come to the Board by the death of Mr. WETHERILL, and our sincere appreciation of the qualities of mind and heart which combined to make him an intelligent, upright, and successful business man, an enterprising, public spirited, and patriotic citizen, and a warm and generous friend.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be addressed officially to the family of Mr. WETHERILL.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, you have heard these resolutions. It seems to me that perhaps their silent and unanimous adoption would be the most appropriate tribute we could pay to the memory of Mr. WETHERILL. Whenever I speak of him, the oppressive sadness that rises disables me from any attempt to pronounce his eulogy. Knowing him, as I did, from his earliest childhood, and



seeing him as he grew in years and in knowledge, and finally take his place in the community as an useful and honored citizen, I have had a personal gratification in watching a life thus formed and thus useful that falls to the lot of but few. Those who have been in the habit of meeting him in this Board, listening to his intelligent arguments and to his accurate knowledge upon statistical questions, and observing the geniality with which he participated in all discussions, and then, after the daily adjournments of the Board, meeting him in the quiet of social intercourse, know what sort of man he was, and how he should be appreciated. He has gone; and we who have met with him so many years, and have seen the light of his countenance shed upon us, are still permitted to assemble together, and to add new friends and new associates to our Board. Thus it is the National Board of Trade goes on, year by year, fulfilling its destinies, and, I hope, ultimately to realize the ideal formed at its creation, — a great brotherhood of merchants and business men, wise enough and intelligent enough to have such influence upon the great councils of the nation as will result in legislation to promote the common good of our whole country.

With your permission, I will take the question upon these resolutions, and will ask those who are in favor of them to rise.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, by a rising vote.

Mr. How, of Chicago: At the last meeting of the National Board, held in Washington, it was thought advisable to change the place of meeting, hoping that in so doing we should be able to develop increased interest in the prosperity of the Board, and probably extend our membership very largely. I am happy to say, Mr. President, we have quite a number of applications for membership. The Committee on Credentials have examined, and report favorably upon, the applications of the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange, the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the Louisville Board of Trade, the Wilmington, Del., Board of Trade, the Buffalo Merchants' Exchange, and the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was adopted by the Board.

The SECRETARY: In behalf of the Executive Council, I have one or two words to say with reference to the official programme. On the last page of the programme there are several topics from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, which came to hand too late to be classified with the rest. The Council ordered this morning that No. I on the last page be considered after No. I on the programme; No. II, after No. XI; No. III, after No. XVI; No. IV, after No. VI; and No. V, after No. IV. Two questions also came from the Milwaukee Merchants' Association, too late to be printed in the programme, one in relation to uniform laws for the collection of debts, and the other in relation to the passage of an equitable bankrupt law. The Council recommends that those two topics be considered immediately after No. VI on the programme.

The PRESIDENT: The next business in order, gentlemen, is the election of a President. I will ask Mr. How, of Chicago, one of the Vice-Presidents, to take the chair while this election is proceeding, and will leave the matter in your hands, in the hope that you may see fit, after my long service, to choose among the very intelligent men that compose the present meeting a President who can be more useful than I have been.

Mr. FRALEY then retired from the room, and Mr. How, of Chicago, took the chair as the presiding officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER: Gentlemen, the next business before the Board is the election of a President for the coming year. Nominations are in order.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: Mr. President, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of nominating for President for the ensuing year our excellent friend Mr. FRALEY.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: I move that nominations close, and that the SECRETARY be requested to cast the vote of the Board for Mr. FRALEY.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, the SECRETARY cast the ballot as directed, and the Presiding Officer declared Mr. FREDERICK FRALEY duly elected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER: The Chair will appoint Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati, and Mr. POPE, of Chicago, to notify the President of his re-election, and to escort him to the chair.

The committee retired, informed Mr. FRALEY of his election, and, returning with him to the room, conducted him to the chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER: Mr. FRALEY, it gives me great pleasure to notify you, that, by an unanimous vote of the National Board of Trade, you have been again elected to the office of President. Gentlemen of the Board, allow me to present to you Mr. FRALEY, who, for the twentieth time, has been elected President of this organization. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT (after taking the chair): It is very difficult, gentlemen, for one who upon the twentieth occasion is called upon to acknowledge such an honor as you have conferred upon me, to address you in a fitting manner. How can I find words adequate to the expression of my appreciation of such repeated recognitions of confidence and honor? I have always esteemed this confidence, and to some extent, reliance upon me, which began in the city of Boston, in 1868, when I was called upon, at the organization of the Convention there, to preside over it as its temporary chairman. I look back to that day as one of the proudest incidents of a life that at that time had just about reached what in many States is considered the retiring period of usefulness. I had the good fortune at that meeting to win many friends; and when they came to Philadelphia in June of the same year, and this National Board of Trade was organized, entirely unexpectedly to myself, and amid many others whom I considered much more fitted to fill such a place than myself, they did what you have done to-day — unanimously elected me President of the National Board of Trade. According to the opportunities I have had for promoting the welfare of the Board, and furthering the objects for which it was organized, I have endeavored to do my duty by the Board, and by those whose confidence I have so repeatedly enjoyed.

We came into existence shortly after the Civil War, when the country had been distracted by all the evils which attend such calamities, but which were happily surmounted, and the morning

of a new growth for the nation was bursting upon us. What a glorious day so far we have had! a great increase of population, a great increase of national prosperity, a gradual, and I hope a permanent growth of fraternal feeling throughout all the sections of the land. Now, at the close of a comparatively long life, I look forward to a future for our country so full of promise for good that the highest aspirations of any patriotic mind cannot fail to be fulfilled.

Upon our programme for this occasion there are questions of vital interest to the country, and there are questions of vital interest to this Board. It is right, perhaps, after twenty years, to look into our original organization, to see what its defects have been, to attempt to apply remedies to them, and to secure for this Board a representation which will unite within its membership all the organizations of the country, large and small. We shall thus bring to these annual meetings such an intelligent knowledge of the great questions that lie at the foundation of national prosperity, and put them in such shape as shall influence the Congress of the United States, and also each State legislature, looking to the adoption of such general laws, either under the Constitution of the United States or by the consensus of the State legislatures, that we shall have, so far at least as commercial transactions are concerned, some uniform laws which will be recognized everywhere, and avoid those jarrings and contentions which spring from purely local legislation, which tends greatly to the prejudice of the general welfare.

I take my seat upon this occasion, therefore, with these hopes in my mind. I am quite satisfied that the intelligent body of men that surround me here to-day will take up all these questions, and give to them such careful consideration as the time we can appropriate to this meeting will permit; and that out of our resolutions will come at least the germs of something that may grow into permanent shape and be generally useful. I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the pleasant auspices which seem to surround us to-day; and I hope those who have come here for the first time will form the same kindly and affectionate relations that I have had with this Board for twenty years; and that when we separate upon our adjournment it will be a separation purely temporary in its character, to be followed by a re-union, a year hence, in all the glad remembrances of the assemblage here to-day, and the hope of a joyous future. (Applause.)

The election of Vice-Presidents is next in order. The Boards will be called in alphabetical order for nominations.

The SECRETARY called the list of the constituent bodies represented, and the following nominations were made :

Buffalo Merchants' Exchange, S. S. GUTHRIE.  
Chicago Board of Trade, GEORGE M. HOW.  
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, JOHN A. GANO.  
Louisville Board of Trade, HARRY WEISSINGER.  
Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, EDW. P. BACON.  
Milwaukee Merchants' Association, WILLIAM P. McLAREN.  
Minneapolis Board of Trade, A. J. BLETHEN.  
New Haven Chamber of Commerce, N. D. SPERRY.  
New York Board of Trade and Transportation, AMBROSE SNOW.  
New York Chamber of Commerce, J. S. T. STRANAHAN.  
Philadelphia Board of Trade, BENJ. S. JANNEY, JR.  
Portland, Ore., Board of Trade, D. P. THOMPSON.  
Rochester Chamber of Commerce, SIDNEY B. ROBY.  
Scranton Board of Trade, J. A. PRICE.  
St. Louis Merchants' Exchange, FRANK GAIIENNIE.  
Trenton Board of Trade, JAMES BUCHANAN.  
Wilmington, Del., Board of Trade, MILO W. LOCKE.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York : I move that the SECRETARY be authorized to cast one ballot for the gentlemen who have been placed in nomination.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the SECRETARY cast the vote of the Board.

The PRESIDENT : The SECRETARY reports that he has cast the ballot as instructed, and the result is the election of the gentlemen whose names have been read.

At this point, 1.20 P.M., the Board took a recess until 2.50 P.M., and then re-assembled.

Mr. TOWNLEY of Cincinnati : Mr. President, I move that the hour of meeting be ten o'clock A.M. ; that the Board at one P.M. adjourn until half-past two, and continue in session until five P.M.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LOCKE, of Wilmington, Del.: I have placed in the hands of the SECRETARY a resolution which I ask to have read and placed on the calendar for consideration hereafter.

The resolution was read, and placed at the foot of the official programme.

Mr. ROBY, of Rochester: Mr. President, I have a resolution adopted by our Chamber of Commerce, which I was requested to bring to this body for consideration. I am not prepared to say anything on the subject now. If at a later time the opportunity is afforded, I shall be glad to do so.

The SECRETARY read the resolution, and it was placed at the foot of the official programme for consideration.

The PRESIDENT: We will now proceed to consider the subjects upon the official programme.

The following is the programme which had been prepared for the meeting:

## I. REPRESENTATION IN THE BOARD.

### SCRANTON BOARD OF TRADE.

*The consideration of representation in the National Board of Trade.*

## II. ADULTERATION OF LARD.

### CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, Rendered fat from the hog, in its pure state, has always been branded and known as lard, and under this name has become one of the necessities of life, universal in its use, unquestioned in its quality, and has grown to be one of the most important articles of export; and

Whereas, During the last few years competition among refiners and dealers has caused them to seek for cheap fats with which to adulterate lard for the purpose of underselling each other, thus causing large quantities of a compound made from the fats of the various animals and vegetables to be placed on the home market, shipped abroad, and branded lard; and

Whereas, Such adulteration of lard has grown to be a national scandal, and has seriously damaged the good name of American lard, both in this country and abroad; and

Whereas, A few years ago shippers and curers, in their anxiety to get business by underselling each other, made shipments to Europe of partially cured meats, which were branded "fully cured," thus giving a pretext to France and Germany to prohibit the importation of American hog meats, on the ground that they were infected with trichina, thereby placing an unjust stigma upon American meats, resulting in great loss to our agricultural interests and to our export trade; and

Whereas, Judging from the action of France and Germany against our meats, we fear the refiners abroad may induce foreign governments to prohibit the importation of all American lard, thus damaging the export trade and diminishing the consumption of honest lard at home, to the financial detriment of the agricultural interests of this country which, to-day, own about fifty million hogs, worth over \$300,000,000, and further damaging America's good name in the commerce of the world;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends to the Congress of the United States, the enactment of such laws and regulations as will compel all refiners and dealers to brand all adulterated lard "Compound lard," or with some brand such as will plainly distinguish the pure from the impure article, in order that the consumers at home and abroad may know the one from the other.

### III. ADULTERATION.

#### NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade reaffirms its action regarding the necessity of a judicious national anti-adulteration law.

### IV. MONTHLY CROP BULLETINS.

#### CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends the discontinuance of monthly crop bulletins, by the Department of Agriculture, as their only effect has been to disturb the world's markets, without giving any reliable information.

### V. A NEW EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

#### CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.

*Resolved*, That the fullest intelligence is requisite to the preservation of a proper equilibrium between the great industries of the country, and a Department of Commerce and Industry should be established by the Government to gather speedy information from the great centers of the country, touching all the various productions into which capital and labor enter.

## VI. THE CREDIT SYSTEM.

SCRANTON BOARD OF TRADE.

*The consideration of the Credit System.*

## VII. CHESAPEAKE AND DELAWARE SHIP CANAL.

BALTIMORE BOARD OF TRADE.

*The Chesapeake and Delaware Ship Canal: Its importance commercially, and its necessity to the Government in the event of a foreign war.*

(Postponed from the last meeting.)

## VIII. TRANSPORTATION.

PORTLAND (OREGON) BOARD OF TRADE.

*How shall we cheapen transportation?*

## IX. COAST AND HARBOR DEFENCE.

NEW HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

*Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the erection of harbor and coast defences, and, particularly, the fortification of the eastern entrance of Long Island Sound, as being the most direct approach to the port of New York and coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

## X. THE SURPLUS REVENUE.

NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

*Resolved*, That recent events have shown in a manner which cannot longer be disregarded, the danger to the business interests of the country from our Government continuing in time of peace, the excessive taxation which was necessary in time of war. A large surplus in the Treasury ties up the circulating medium which is the life-blood of commerce, exposes the people to still greater taxation in the shape of high rates of interest, acts as a menace to industry, dwarfs business enterprise, gives the Treasury a power over commerce which was never contemplated, and is a constant temptation to extravagance in the administration of our Government.

*Resolved*, That business men of all parties, whether protectionists or free-traders, should unite in demanding early action by Congress to reduce our present enormous revenues in a way which will least embarrass existing industries.

*Resolved*, That while it is desirable to reduce the internal taxes, it is not desirable to abolish the internal revenue system as a whole, for the reason that it affords guarantees of quality to consumers and insures the prosperity of established industries.



## XI. THE TAX ON ALCOHOL.

NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

*Resolved*, That the internal revenue tax upon alcohol used in the arts and manufactures should be abolished.

## XII. INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES.

NEW HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

*Resolved*, That we urge upon Congress the total repeal of the internal revenue taxes.

## XIII. OCEAN STEAM NAVIGATION.

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, The commercial steam marine of the United States, to foreign parts, can only be made to succeed by the same means that have made that of other nations successful; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That subsidies similar to those allowed by other nations should be granted to American steamships for carrying the United States mails.

*Resolved*, That these subsidies and every other proper means should be adopted by Congressional legislation for the purpose of aiding our merchants to compete on equal terms for the South American trade.

## XIV. AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE.

NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

Whereas, With the extension of steam and electric communication, the field for American products and manufactures is the world;

*Resolved*, That our Government should follow the example of leading commercial nations, in encouraging the establishment of regular and frequent communication by means of American steamship lines, and to this end should recognize the same principle on the ocean which has proven so successful in increasing the efficiency of our postal service on land; viz.: paying a fair price for a fair service, irrespective of the amount of postage collected on any particular route.

*And be it further Resolved*, That every legitimate means to foster our merchant marine should be used, including the enactment of the law now pending in Congress, popularly known as the Tonnage Bill, applying alike to sail and steam vessels engaged in foreign commerce.

## XV. SILVER COINAGE.

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, The present coinage of Silver Dollars, in connection with other forms of currency, is sufficient for all the requirements of the domestic trade and commerce of the United States: and

Whereas, The profits which result from this coinage and which are counted as part of the annual income of the Government, are not a legitimate source of revenue under the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, When the condition of foreign exchanges may require the export of precious metals, these dollars cannot, on account of their over valuation, be sent abroad without ruinous loss to all classes of the population; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Congress should be memorialized to provide by law for the suspension of the purchase of silver bullion, and of the coinage of Silver Dollars.

## XVI. BASIS FOR NATIONAL BANKING.

### PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, The National Banking System provides a stable and uniform currency, and by diminishing the cost of internal exchange greatly benefits all classes of the community; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we solicit Congress to make such an adjustment of the remaining National Bonds as will provide an adequate security and permit an extension of the life of the National Banks.

## XVII. COMMERCIAL UNION WITH CANADA.

### NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

*Commercial Union with Canada.*

[This topic for consideration.]

## XVIII. LETTER POSTAGE.

### NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

Whereas, The usefulness of our postal system depends in a great degree upon its cheapness; and

Whereas, Each successive reduction in the rate of postage has within a short time developed an astonishing increase of business and enhanced the usefulness of our postal system to the people; and

Whereas, A bill is now pending in Congress reducing letter postage to one cent;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade favors the passage of said bill, believing that even if it should result in a temporary deficit in our postal department, the revenues of the nation justify it.

## XIX. RIGHTS UNDER BILLS OF LADING.

## CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, There are many different forms used for consigning property ; and,

Whereas, It is necessary to establish the rights of the holders of bills of lading, and also the common carrier's liability thereunder ;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade requests the Congress of the United States, to amend the Inter-State Commerce Act so that all common carriers subject to the provisions of said act shall, upon the request of the consignor, make their contract or bill of lading for property to be transported,

To the order of . . . . .

Notify . . . . .

and to further legalize this form of consignment, it shall be unlawful for any common carriers to make delivery of property so consigned, except upon the return of the contract or bill of lading covering the same, properly endorsed.

## XX. REGULATION OF IMMIGRATION.

## PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, The increasing ease of ocean transport renders our shores continually more and more accessible to the scourings of foreign disease, and poverty and crime ; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That preventive measures against this evil should be increased, and that the reception of paupers, helpless invalids and criminals is not a necessary part of our free institutions nor demanded by national hospitality.

## XXI. UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE.

## NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade favors the proposition to organize a naval reserve for the United States, to consist of officers and men from the mercantile marine, yachtsmen, ex-naval and ex-marine-revenue officers and watermen generally, and of vessels to be built with reference to their use in the time of war as auxiliary to the regular navy.

## XXII. NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

## PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF TRADE.

Whereas, The danger of contagion must increase year by year commensurate with the increase of population and the growth of facilities of travel ; therefore

*Resolved*, That the National Government should appropriate larger sums for carrying on the work of the National Board of Health, and that the efficiency of this Board should be increased by any legislation needed in the due exercise of its powers.

## XXIII. QUARANTINE LAWS.

NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

*The consideration of the laws relating to Quarantine.*

## ADDENDA.

*The following propositions from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce were received after the programme had gone to press :*

I. *Resolved*, That a Committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its President (he to be one of the number), whose duty it shall be to consider what steps may be taken to make the undertakings of the Board more effective, so as that it may more nearly accomplish the purposes of its organization, as so well set forth in the Preamble to its Constitution. Said Committee to report at the meeting of the Board in November.

II. *Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to remove all duty from timber in the rough.

III. *Resolved*, That a Committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its President, to consider and report upon the feasibility and practicability of the establishment of a National Clearing-House Association for banks, under the direction and control of local clearing-house associations in the various cities of the United States.

IV. *Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to so amend the law allowing non-residents to bring suits in the United States Courts as to permit suits to be brought where the amount of five hundred dollars and over is involved, instead of two thousand dollars, as now.

V. *Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to legalize the cental system for transactions in grain, seeds and kindred products, with a view to the introduction of this system in place of the bushel measure, and that the commercial organizations of the country be urged to adopt and put into effect such system. Also, that in place of the present measure by gallon for liquids, such as oils, spirits, syrups, etc., a system of weights be similarly authorized and adopted.

The SECRETARY read Proposition I, proposed by the Scranton Board of Trade, as follows :

*The consideration of representation in the National Board of Trade.*

Mr. PRICE, of Scranton : Mr. President : My labors and investigations upon political, economic, industrial, and commercial

topics during the past few years have constantly led up to the conclusion that the greatest appreciable want of the day is an adequate and a comprehensive knowledge of existing conditions; in other words, a system of *getting at* the knowledge that comes to us everywhere, like falls of meteoric showers, brilliant, imposing, heaven-wide, but entirely without a defined vital effectiveness. We are accustomed to note changes by our suffering, rather than by anticipation and correction. We have no grouping or associating system by which and through which these magnificent forces that are playing around us can be focalized, so to speak, into practical channels.

The influences for good, and the power for progressive development, are widely seen and amply felt in nearly every other of the many lines of social enterprise in which men engage, but that of the line represented by the organizations of the Boards of Trade, — the vital line of existence, — for along it lie the problems of distribution as well as production. Geology and botany, among the sciences, mining, mechanics, and electricity, among the arts, are effecting, by conferences and congresses, constant and persistent advancement not otherwise possible. Their proceedings become standard works of reference, and exert an influence both as guards and guides. Can we say as much for our commercial and industrial relations? Are not the pursuits of living left to "go as you please"?

Local Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, and what-not of similar organization, are doing extensive, effective, and magnificent local work; but there is no aggregation of the labor. Among nearly four hundred organizations, composed of the most active men of the local communities, we have had a *limited* central expression that, although good so far as it goes, is in no sufficient way wholly representative. It is impossible to survey the vast field and not be impressed with the possibilities and responsibilities.

And as we grow, as we must, with astonishing rapidity, our systems of trade, industry, and government will become more and more complex, and will demand constant changes in methods of control. This nation will *feel* the pressure of population more acutely and more quickly than any other: we have not the element of what is called established institutions, of divine right, of blood, and of property, to act as a steadier in periods of strain.

We must eternally rely on knowledge and its distribution for safety ; or, to change a little the form of patriotic truism, we will proclaim in words that contain less of fire and fervor, but more of sunshine and devotion, and are more practical, " Knowledge is the price of liberty."

One glance at the tables of immigration since 1820, when the record began, gives us a startling total up to June 30, 1888, of 14,485,642 individuals ; and another at those of population since the first census in 1790, when we had 3,929,214, to 1890, when we shall have 64,000,000, an increase of sixteen hundred per cent. in one hundred years, — the unparalleled growth of history. Or, might we not fairly well call America the Reservoir, receiving the overflow of Nations? We are receiving English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, Germans, Scandinavians, French, Swiss, Italians, and Slavic, — the latter becoming formidable, — in great numbers ; but as intelligence of our enterprise and resources spreads eastward, we must expect also the vast populations of Southern Russia, of the Ural, and of the Caspian, — if not some from a still greater beyond, — to pour in upon us. This latter fact will be made more sure of anticipation by the Russian system of control, from which she cannot retreat except in dissolution or absolute overthrow. I do not know who can stand confronted with these terrible problems, both of growth and immigration, and not feel a sense of apprehension.

We began our career as a nation under the mighty stimulus of grand ideas. We were to be the asylum of the oppressed of all lands — no exception. Our welcome was proclaimed to the ends of the earth. The ends of the earth are just beginning to hear the not unwelcome invitation. The footsteps of the crowding millions already resound like distant thunder. Here is the modern Mecca of pilgrimage. It is impossible to dam or divert this current. Notwithstanding the lofty conception and the grand purposes of the early days, we have already become the dumping-ground of all kinds of populations, and we must expect to receive the unemployed hordes of Europe and the vagrant life of Asia practically without limitation.

We have one hope only. If we cannot check the tendency of events without destroying the spirit as well as the form of institutions divinely blessed, as it would appear, we can devote our effort to preparing the mass for citizenship and for residence by

requiring accommodation and conformity to a higher elevation of existence; we can protect ourselves by raising the standard of association and of living above the mud levels, so that our institutions may not be degraded into slough, and be ultimately washed into wreck. Rather than attempt the impossible of prevention, let us begin to prepare requirements that will steady the current and elevate the mass.

Supplement these portentous — though they are indeed magnificent — tendencies with still another, of a constant gravitation of population into cities, constituting a genuine “peril of the city” to our form of government. We must admit the fact that the city will absorb population with increasing avidity. The attraction to the locality where life, art, amusement, and society are constantly at their best, is irresistible; it is nature, as completely as metal to loadstone, moth to light.

In this way we have, and shall always have, the dark lines of poverty and the bright lines of exalted conditions dangerously near; and as we grow in civilization these lines will intensify; and we shall be fortunate indeed if we can so insulate them that the colliding currents may not fire our structure.

The Census of 1790 gave us one-thirteenth of our population in cities, taking the city of eight thousand inhabitants as a basis, — or between three and four per cent. of the population; while in 1880 the population rose to nearly one-fourth, or twenty-five per cent. This tendency is marked in the succeeding generations from 1790 to 1880, by a patient persistence, and notwithstanding our growth as a country, from nearly four millions in 1790 to over fifty millions of people in 1880, or twelve hundred per cent. of increase, yet we find the centering of population into cities to have accomplished the Astonishing, in nearly nine thousand per cent. of increase. Let us keep vividly in mind that already one-fourth of our entire population live in the city, subject to its temptations, its license, and its perils, with publicity and responsibility at its minimum, — a most certain danger-point already.

Permit me, before making the application to the labor before us, to presume further upon your time, while I call your attention to the growth of institutions, taking in this case a period of fifty instead of an hundred years. The Census of 1830 gave us 105,697 manufacturing establishments, with 455,758 employés; while that of 1880 gave us 251,104 establishments, with nearly

3,000,000 of employ  s: the capitalisation in industry in 1830 was about \$222,000,000; that of 1880, nearly \$3,000,000,000: the product of 1830 was \$370,000,000; that of 1880, nearly \$5,500,000,000. These enormous percentages of increase would indicate a corresponding variation of requirements or of adaptation to the new conditions arising; yet we go on with pretty much the same machinery as was in existence when the development was at the lowest point. Or, to use a figure of illustration, we are attempting to harness the Railway Age in the toggery of the farm-wagon or the cart. In the nature of things, it must be impossible that we shall not recognize the necessity of better organization and prepare for it.

The genius of this age most certainly is abroad, to induce the inhabitants of the earth to interchange communications and products by every means within the devising of the fertile human intellect, and within the capability of the skilful human hand. We encourage it in almost every human art, and we are undoubtedly as yet but in the period of infancy as to what the coming years will witness. The railroad, even with its marvelous progress of sixty years, must yet be extended into hundreds of thousands of miles of track: water communications will also multiply and expand. We have seen the tendency of increase in population and in production, and it is conclusive that transportation will maintain an equal pace. Who can stand before these incomparable accomplishments and deny the need of intelligent association! A National Board of Trade comes nearest to an ideal of association by which knowledge may be gathered and through which it may be disseminated.

Under conditions of growth and prosperity such as we have cited, we must expect that competition will bear down upon us with crushing effect, and that the pressure and the exactions will send vast crowds to the wall. We persistently tend towards violent centralization, rather than benevolent diffusion, and our aim should be to disarm all these agencies of their destructive terrors, while retaining their undoubted advantages.

It may be advanced in opposition, that we have statutory laws, codes, constituted government, to describe and circumscribe all these tendencies and growths; but I will venture to assert that a trifle of adequate knowledge possessed by a comprehensive system of Boards of Trade, will be of the greater value in guiding, direct-



ing, and guarding the vast interests arisen and to arise. Our political classes are perpetually failing us, and are found below the average in experience and capacity; and the standard is lowering slowly but surely; it will not require many decades, at the rate we are going, to place the enactment of legal regulations in the hands of absolute incompetency.

And again, we have all come to the knowledge at some time, of the difficulty of obtaining relief of commercial strain by political processes. Our political classes can never know the wants as the commercial classes discern them, without a systematic and representative form of expression, — this expression, as we are constituted to-day, we can never give, but which is highly possible with adequate organization of the four hundred representative local organizations. We positively need a widely extended association, that in its members is in direct contact with the actual state of things abroad in the country, — and which shall proclaim, with no uncertainty and with the favor of a forerunner, the need of the hour. It is foolish to attempt these results without organization, or to deny the beneficent effect that such organization would surely exert. This subject is indeed a worthy one for your consideration, and one that may well possess largely of your time and your unprejudiced counsel.

As a mere matter of outline, and by way of suggestion, you will permit me to advance the first necessity of extending the National Board organization until it shall fairly comprehend the locals of all the country. This may be done by such a presentation as shall exhibit the interest involved in the co-operation, — the good that may be established in the trade and transportation of the country, and the power that may be exerted in obtaining wise, broad, and uniform legislation to govern our rapid advancement. It is worth the effort.

To do this with best effect, it may be necessary to recast both the system of representation and the sustentation tax upon the local boards, making, possibly, the voting power either according to the numbers reported, which may be cast by a single representative, or consolidating the vote to a unit with proxy privileges: the sustaining fee also may be regulated in a way that will encourage membership from local boards, either by a small *per capita* or a lump sum per local board.

The completed organization would also contemplate the most

intimate interchange of communication, the publication of important trade changes, the condensation and distribution of commercial and industrial statistics, the presentation of subjects involving vital considerations, and the securing of local action upon the same, until we could finally know what the actual wants of the whole country might be.

The proceedings of such an organization, if properly published, would constitute a most valuable library of reference, and become of infinite assistance in giving intelligent direction to effort. It is not necessary to enlarge upon the value of comprehensive statistics in our complex life; for none will deny that we are becoming more and more dependent as the years add both increase and variety to our institutions.

It is really an astonishing fact that the great interests of production and distribution in this country — the very largest we have — have exhibited no centralizing tendency, except those of selfishness and greed which are to be condemned. Public welfare will be conserved by a general guard over trusts, pools and corners, such as extended commercial organization would effect. The *laissez faire* principle, which becomes so rapidly exhausted in advanced conditions, is left to operate exclusively along the line of these extending developments. In this case I greatly fear it will be found destructive rather than propitious. We should anticipate our future necessities more exhaustively than we are doing; and we can only accomplish so vast a scale of labor by perfecting our organization, extending its duties, systematizing its efforts, and centralizing its individual contributions of experience, wants, and prospects. The problem thus reduces itself to one rather of knowledge than of law; for with a proper understanding there can be no doubt but that the good sense of the operators will continually influence action into the least difficult channels.

Whether or not these vast interests should move to be represented in the active councils of the nation, as in Great Britain, may still be left an open question, but one which the increasing tendency towards the formation of trusts, cornering markets, cheapening by false products, and food adulteration, will sooner or later thrust itself upon us. We may then be obliged to ask governmental functions in connection with our work for the general welfare.

At the present moment there is no greater question that can

enter your deliberations than this question of representation and the future status of the National Board. I am of opinion that the country — the whole country — is ready for the movement for organization as never before; and that you cannot address yourselves to a task more befitting your present connections or more worthy your best effort. Let us, then, not discuss the subject without a vigorous attempt to unite the scattered organizations.

Do not forget that the spirit of the age is with and for organization; that legislation needs constant unbiased influence; that localities heretofore known to be comparatively stationary are springing forward with wonderful energy; and that local boards will be organized in the West, and particularly in the South, until they will aggregate many hundreds over the numbers of to-day, — a list of which, containing three hundred and eighty-two separate locals, is presented herewith. With these facts before us, every interest with us, and fair assurances that we will meet sympathy and arouse enthusiasm everywhere, let us formulate a plan of extension of organization, and arrange for its vigorous prosecution, as one of the paramount objects of the session before us.

The PRESIDENT: We cannot discuss a subject without having some distinct proposition before us to which gentlemen can address themselves. We ought to have something direct to which our attention can be given.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Chicago: I would like to ask whether the first resolution presented by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce does not cover this very point? As that is to be taken up next in order, it seems to me it might be embodied in this discussion without any impropriety.

Mr. PRICE: In order to bring the matter properly before the body, in accordance with the suggestion of the President, I offer the following:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed, with power to act in all matters relating to the extension of the membership of the National Board of Trade and whereby its influence can be enlarged and its work rendered more efficient.

*Resolved*, That the sum of two hundred dollars, or so much as may be needed in the judgment of the Committee be appropriated to inaugurate the work.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York : I have but one word to offer in connection with the essay of the gentleman. I listened to it with attention and with great interest. Indeed, more than ever in my life I have within the last half-hour realized that the world moves. A proposition has been suggested in regard to the appointment of a committee. It struck me favorably. I suggest that the question of the gentleman from Scranton be referred, as he has indicated, to a special committee of which the gentleman shall be the chairman to consider the question and report intelligently and as far as possible completely, to the next meeting of this Board of Trade. The subject comes like a new thought, I have no doubt, to many gentlemen present. It needs consideration and it is worthy of consideration. If acceptable to that gentleman, I will make that motion.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati : Mr. President, I have listened to what the gentleman from Scranton has said with a great deal of interest. It is very suggestive, in view of the fact that there seems to be no question of more importance to the National Board of Trade, today, than how its work shall be most effective ; how it may serve to carry forward the work for which it was organized. The Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce submitted a resolution which is among the addenda on the last page of the programme, and, I think, will be extremely gratified if the suggestion made in it with reference to what is practically this question be adopted ; that is, that it be referred to a committee, but that such committee make some report to this meeting. We ask in the resolution submitted by Cincinnati that a report be made to this meeting. I am very glad the subject came up so early in the discussions of the Board, so that if a committee be appointed, it may have time to give proper consideration to the work it will undertake and to report. If no other report can be made, we may at least have a report of progress. One objection to Mr. STRANAHAN's resolution is that the same delegates do not come year after year. Consequently it may be that the gentlemen who will constitute a committee that may be appointed here will not be here next year. That is one of the difficulties we encounter in this organization. It seems to me, it would be better, instead of a committee to report at a future meeting, to make such report now as is possible that it may go forth to constituent bodies and to

bodies that may desire to become members of this Association and let these know that the National Board of Trade is considering ways and means to make its work effective and will do what it can to make it so. If Mr. STRANAHAN will accept a modification of his resolution as to the time of reporting, I shall be very glad to second the motion.

Mr. STRANAHAN: I will accept the suggestion of Mr. GANO with a great deal of pleasure.

Mr. McLAREN, of Milwaukee: If my understanding is correct, the Board is now considering No. I of the Cincinnati recommendations, as well as No. I of the programme. If I understand aright, the proposition is to submit both of these subjects to the committee. If so, I would like to call attention to what I understand to be the meaning of the Cincinnati resolution. It goes further than the first resolution on the programme, which relates only to representation. I conceive that the Cincinnati gentlemen, when they framed this resolution, meant to go a little further, and to consider other things in regard to the action of the Board of Trade that are perhaps of equal importance. I call attention to it now in order that, if I am correct, this committee may consider the whole subject. For instance, I conceive that it is meant by this resolution that the committee to be appointed should consider how to make the action of this Board more effective. I think that is a point well worthy of consideration. We meet year by year, and we pass resolutions, and the Executive Council do what they can to bring them before legislative bodies, and in other ways to make them effective; but we all know that they are not nearly as effective as they ought to be, and do not carry the weight they ought to carry. I deem this a very important subject for consideration, and I think this committee ought to consider whether any means can be taken to make the action of the Board more effective on legislative or other bodies we seek to influence.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo: Mr. President, I propose that we adopt the resolution submitted by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, with a single exception, which I will indicate. I think, as has been well said by Mr. GANO and Mr. McLAREN, that this resolution is very comprehensive, and I am heartily in favor of the proposition that the committee shall report at the present

meeting. I move that the resolution offered by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce be adopted by this Board, and that a Committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by the President, Mr. PRICE to be chairman, whose duty it shall be to consider what steps may be taken to make the undertakings of the Board more effective, so as that it may more nearly accomplish the purpose of its organization, as so well set forth in the preamble to its Constitution; said committee to report at the meeting of the Board in next November. The resolution offered by Mr. STRANAHAN does not cover all that is covered by my proposition, which I think embraces all the points suggested by our friend, Mr. PRICE.

Mr. STRANAHAN: I see no practical difficulty in the way, except it be the want of time for proper consideration of a very important question.

Mr. PARSONS, of New York: I desire to call attention to the fact that the resolution of Mr. GUTHRIE does not cover quite as much ground, or ground in the special direction of the paper offered by Mr. PRICE. If the amendment had not been seconded, I was going to offer a resolution to this effect, and, if proper, I will do so: That a committee of five be appointed of which Mr. PRICE shall be chairman, to whom shall be referred the subject matter of the resolution of the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati and also of the paper presented by Mr. PRICE.

Mr. STRANAHAN: The gentlemen have substantially met my view of the case and the motion I made, or intended to make. At any rate, I am entirely satisfied with the action which the gentleman suggests in regard to the paper read by Mr. PRICE and the proposition offered by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. I accept the suggestion.

The PRESIDENT: As I understand it, gentlemen, the question is in this shape: Mr. PRICE, of Scranton, offered a resolution which would substantially refer this matter to a committee with power to act upon it. To that Mr. STRANAHAN offered an amendment that the subject should be referred to a committee of five for consideration. Then Mr. GANO, as I understand him, proposed that the proposition from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce should be

referred to the same committee to which Mr. STRANAHAN desired to refer this whole subject. Then Mr. GUTHRIE offered a motion that we adopt the proposition from Cincinnati, and after adopting it, that we refer it and the proposition of Mr. PRICE to a committee for consideration and report. The suggestion of Mr. PARSONS would carry the matter back to the original proposition offered by Mr. STRANAHAN, that the paper of Mr. PRICE and the subject referred to by him in his resolution and the proposition of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, should be referred to a committee for consideration and report, the suggestion being that Mr. PRICE should be made chairman of that committee. If the question should be taken upon Mr. PARSONS' present proposition it would be merely carrying it back to the situation in which Mr. STRANAHAN put it originally. I, therefore, suggest to Mr. PARSONS that he do not press his proposition, but allow the question to be taken first upon the amendment offered by Mr. GUTHRIE, and if that should not be adopted, then the question would recur upon the proposition offered by Mr. STRANAHAN, which, if adopted, would carry Mr. PRICE's paper and the resolution from the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati to a special committee, of which it is the understanding Mr. PRICE shall be chairman, for consideration and report.

Mr. GUTHRIE: With the consent of the second I will withdraw my amendment.

Mr. PARSONS: I understand that my proposition is really covered by Mr. STRANAHAN's resolution and therefore I withdraw it.

The PRESIDENT: Then the question will be upon the proposition originally submitted by Mr. STRANAHAN and modified by the suggestion of Mr. GANO, of Cincinnati that Mr. PRICE's paper and the suggestion from the Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati be referred to a Special Committee of five for consideration and report at this meeting of the Board.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I will appoint as such Committee, Mr. PRICE, of Scranton, Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati, Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York, Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo, and Mr. PARSONS, of New York.

Mr. How, of Chicago: The next proposition is from the Chicago Board of Trade, and as the gentleman who is to take charge of it is not present, I ask that it be postponed until to-morrow at the opening of the session.

There being no objection, Mr. How's request was granted.

The SECRETARY read proposition III, from the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade reaffirm its action in regard to the necessity of a judicious national anti-adulteration law.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: This proposition was concurred in at the last session of this Board and I think the one previous to that. I will state for the information of the Board that a convention was held in Washington two years ago at which a bill was formulated in regard to the adulteration of food products and drugs; and again last winter, a convention was held there at which there was a large representation from most parts of the United States, and a bill was unanimously agreed upon and presented to Congress. The title of that bill was as follows: "An act to establish in the Department of the Treasury a bureau on adulteration, and to provide for the maintenance therefore, and to regulate or prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of adulterated articles of food and drugs." I therefore move the adoption of the resolution before us.

Mr. LIONBERGER, of St. Louis: It seems to me if we adopt the resolution just offered we will in effect pass upon the former resolution on which we have reserved action until to-morrow. That resolution is substantially embraced in the one under consideration. Would it not be better to postpone action upon this resolution until we take up the former? I think that as one embraces the other both should come up at once and at the same time.

Mr. WALDO SMITH: I would suggest that the resolution under consideration at the present time is a general proposition relating to all articles of food and drugs. The resolution to come up to-morrow is specific, and calls for specific action. This is entirely



separate and distinct from that. The Bill in question is now before Congress, and relates to all articles of food and all articles of drugs for consumption in the United States. The resolution relates more to the exportation of lard.

Mr. McENNIS, of St. Louis : I am in favor of both propositions, Mr. President ; and I am satisfied if the two propositions can go together we will be able to agree almost unanimously, and I think satisfactorily not only to ourselves but to the country at large. I would therefore move that the resolution from the New York Board of Trade and Transportation be postponed until to-morrow to the same time when we shall consider the subject of adulterated lard.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago : As a member of the Chicago delegation I would like to see the motion made by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALDO SMITH) adopted. I agree with him that the propositions are dissimilar. However we may differ in regard to the lard matter, I think it is all wrong to saddle our troubles, if there be any, upon the New York Board when it has presented a resolution which at once commends itself to the judgment, sense and virtue of every member present. Let us vote for it and vote for it earnestly. If it does so happen that the National Board shall take a different view of the lard question to-morrow, so much the worse for the Board. I do not believe it will. But let us take the risk.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York : The proposition from the New York Board of Trade and Transportation is general. It may command general approval and it may fall into general condemnation. The proposition from Chicago is specific and I imagine is important, and should rest upon its own foundation. Although I see, and other gentlemen see, that the adoption of the resolution from New York will in some degree pave the way for the Chicago resolution, yet nevertheless I hope we will take that risk and pass the resolution offered by the New York Board of Trade and take care of the Chicago resolution to-morrow.

Mr. LIONBERGER : Lest the impression might prevail that in advocating the postponement of the resolution of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation I am opposed to that resolu-

tion, I wish to say that such is not the case. I heartily indorse the resolution. At the same time I must reiterate what I said, that one proposition is embraced in the other. Lard is an article of food. There is no question in my mind that the latter embraces the former. I am in favor of both resolutions and shall vote for both when they are before the Board.

Mr. McENNIS: I made the motion to postpone more with a view of drawing out the sentiments of members than for any other reason. I have no wish to delay the proceedings of this Board or to force an issue that is not exactly pleasant to the meeting. For that reason I will withdraw my motion to postpone the consideration of the New York resolution.

The resolution submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation was then unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. How, Proposition IV Monthly Crop Bulletins, submitted by the Chicago Board of Trade, was postponed until to-morrow, Mr. BAKER of Chicago, who had the proposition in charge, being absent.

The SECRETARY read proposition V, a new executive department, submitted by the Chicago Board of Trade, with the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the fullest intelligence is requisite to the preservation of a proper equilibrium between the great industries of the country, and a Department of Commerce and Industry should be established by the Government to gather speedy information from the great centers of the country, touching all the various productions into which capital and labor enter.

Mr. How, of Chicago: This proposition is substantially the same as was adopted by the National Board of Trade at its session in Washington in 1886. The subject has been before the Board since 1869. It was first submitted to by the Baltimore Corn Exchange, and it has been on the official programme almost every year since. It has been one of the pets of this Board. In

1873, the Board instructed the President to draw up a bill to embrace what was believed to be needed. That bill was presented to the Board in 1874 and unanimously approved. It has been before Congress for the last two or three sessions. It was supposed two years ago that we had a clear prospect of having Congress pass the bill; but a proposition came up from the granger element of the country to establish a Department of Agriculture. It was proposed by some of the friends of both measures that there should be a Department of Agriculture and Commerce. This the agriculturalists of the country were not in favor of. I have no doubt the resolution as it stands upon the programme will receive the unanimous approval of this Board, as in years past.

Let me say in this connection, that two of the gentlemen who have held the position of Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. WINDOM and Mr. SHERMAN, were both in favor of this proposition; they saw that it would relieve the Treasury Department of a great deal of labor which now falls upon it, and which is not exactly in the line of the Treasury business. The only additional expense to the government would be the salary of the Secretary of the Department. The force now employed in the Treasury Department in making up the statistics could be transferred to the new department. I think the chances are that at the next session of Congress if the matter is properly presented we will be able to secure the adoption of the proposition and the establishment of a Department of Commerce.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo: Is not the Bill now before the House?

Mr. How: It was presented to the last House and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. BARNES, of New Haven: I am interested in the question and would like to ask, for information, if I understood the gentleman from Chicago correctly. Is it proposed merely to transfer the force in the Treasury Department which is now gathering statistics into another Department and call it a Department of Commerce and Industry; or is it the idea that the Department shall be extended so that further and fuller information may be acquired? Then there is another question I would like to ask

while I am on my feet: Whether there is a probability of those statistics and that information being of any value? The previous question, which has been laid over until to-morrow, reflects upon the Department of Agriculture, and asks that their reports be discontinued because they are of no value. If we ask that another Department be established, are we sure we are going to have one whose reports will be of any value to us? I would like information in that respect.

Mr. How, of Chicago: It will depend entirely upon the management of the Department, whether the reports are reliable or not.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: I think our best plan would be to ask that the Secretary of Agriculture shall also take charge of the question of commerce. I think we will reach what we are after sooner in that way than if we ask for another new member of the cabinet. I merely make the suggestion, having had some little experience in the political line, and knowing the difficulties that attend any innovation upon old established usage on the part of the General Government.

Mr. How: Your idea is to have a Bureau of Commerce under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture?

Mr. STRANAHAN: No, sir; no Bureau. I would not be content with that. But I would have the Secretary of Agriculture the Secretary of Commerce also; have the question of commerce as much in his mind as the question of agriculture.

Mr. How: How would that benefit us any more than the present condition? The subject is now under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. What would be the advantage of changing from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of Agriculture?

Mr. STRANAHAN: Because the duties of the new Secretary of Agriculture will be very much lighter than those of the Secretary of the Treasury; very much lighter; and if we can come in at an early day with the question of commerce and have it run side by side with that of agriculture, I think we will attain our end, and do it in a manner that will be satisfactory to all con-

cerned, except our agricultural friends, who will not want to have anything else in that Department.

Mr. How, of Chicago: I think perhaps the Board made a mistake some years ago in not advocating a Bureau of Commerce as was suggested at one or two of the meetings, instead of asking for a Department of Commerce. Here is where our agricultural friends rather got the start of us. They asked for a Bureau of Agriculture and now they have a Department. We were not willing to accept that, and got nothing.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo: I want to call attention to the resolution. As I understand it we are not discussing this resolution, but bringing up questions in regard to what we will do after we have passed it. Let us act upon the resolution, which I am in favor of.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, I would like to have the gentleman who introduced this proposition state to us what are the advantages to be accomplished by it; in what respect the present arrangement of the Government in relation to commercial and industrial statistics is deficient and in what manner it would be improved by organizing a special department to take it in charge.

Mr. How: We have always claimed that if we had a Secretary to oversee the management of the Department of Commerce it would be more satisfactory in all its results and better serve the interests of the country. As it is now, it is under the charge of the Treasury Department, and it does not receive the attention which we think ought to be devoted to the subjects which it is proposed to turn over to the Department of Commerce, pilotage, the consuls, the gathering of statistics, etc. As it is now, all this is under the charge of the Treasury Department, and that Department has more than it can attend to. Both Mr. WINDOM and Mr. SHERMAN said they would be very glad to have the Treasury Department relieved of that part of the duty which devolved upon them.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago: I think something more might be said in addition to what Mr. How has said replying to Mr. BACON's inquiries. It often happens that a Secretary of the Treasury who

may be most admirably informed, and able, with a large experience to fit him for the place, might not be entirely well informed in regard to matters that belong strictly to commerce, although in one sense one is involved in the other. When I arose I had in mind the great service that was done to England, and that was done to the United States from the fact that the President of the British Board of Trade was a member of the British Cabinet at a time when all Europe seemed to be dumbfounded with ignorant prejudice that existed against American meats. It so happened that the German Government for some reason, I suspect more because of our treaty in regard to favored nations, could not at that time properly put on so high a tariff against the importation of American meats as to make it prohibitive, and therefore they sprang upon us a decree denying entirely the admission of American meat on the ground that it was unwholesome and deleterious. The French Government did about the same thing and the Austrians followed suit. Then rose up the great English people that possibly would have done the same thing if they had had to depend upon the chancellor of the exchequer or some such official not so well informed in regard to matters of commerce; but Mr. MUNDELLA, who was then the President of the British Board of Trade and a man of sound common sense, addressed himself to the discharge of the duty in such a way as resulted in the fact that American meats were not misunderstood and were not misrepresented, and they continued to go into that market for the benefit of the English people and for the benefit of the American packers. There are times often when in great emergencies of this sort we need a man at the head of affairs who understands commercial matters. We have had before us in the last two or three years one of the most important subjects for consideration, the Interstate Commerce Law. The public mind was prepared for it largely by the brilliant magazine articles written by Mr. THURBER, of New York. I cannot tell how much I regret that I do not see him here to-day. He has been for many years a delegate in constant attendance at the meetings of this National Board. My warmest thanks are due to him, and I give them to him. The public owes him a debt of gratitude it can never pay, in that he prepared the public mind for that measure. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS very largely assisted him. In due time that law was passed and in due time a commis-

sion was appointed to see the law enforced. Is not that law purely a matter of commerce? Shall it be put into operation by a roving commission? Where could such powers better be placed than in a minister of commerce?

If you want to build a lighthouse you have to go to the Secretary of the Treasury and make your contract. If you want to do something else very nearly akin to that, you have to go to the War Department. If you want to get your clearances of commerce all over the country, the lake ports and the great sea ports, you go to the Department that on the face of it is confessedly a department of finance, rather than a department of commerce. This is a commercial country. All our great industries belong fairly and squarely to the Department of Commerce. I would not for one moment underrate the importance of Agriculture, but I know that the Bureau of Agriculture has been largely devoted to distributing a few seeds from year to year and preparing crop reports in June which are flatly contradicted in July or in December. It is an important office and an important Department. I should have voted for its establishment. But because we have a Department of Agriculture, that is no reason why a body so emphatically and so strictly a commercial body as this should not move for a Department of Commerce.

Mr. COATES, of Philadelphia: Mr. President, while I am in sympathy with the resolutions that we have heard to-day there have been some reflections made upon the present conduct of the statistical department to which I wish to reply. I presume the new department is expected to take in the Bureau of Statistics. I know nothing about the statistics in regard to grain or the crops, but I would like to testify to the benefits the wool trade have received from the reports of Colonel SWITZLER, the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, in regard to wool. He has made a most exhaustive and valuable report which has been a great benefit to the wool trade, and I do not think it could have been done better under a new department.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago: We agree with you. No reflection is meant to be made upon Mr. NIMMO's Bureau or Mr. SWITZLER; none whatever.

Mr. COATES: I did not want to vote for the resolution with the

idea that we were censuring any of those gentlemen for the valuable information they have given us.

Mr. TUCKER, of Philadelphia: I think the difficulty experienced arises largely from the character of this Bill as proposed in 1884. With a somewhat intimate knowledge of the business of the custom houses of the country, I cannot see that some of the business you are intending to charge this new department with should be consistently diverted from the Secretary of the Treasury or from the Treasury Department. You speak of commercial statistics and you speak of statistics in regard to vessels. Those statistics are gathered, as I conceive in the most natural way, from that source where the figures are naturally deposited. I cannot conceive that the clearance of vessels could be readily placed in any other hands than those of the custom houses, which should not, as I conceive, being largely a matter of finance, be diverted from the Treasury Department. How could the collection of duties and statistics derived from the collection of duties, which bears such an important part in the affairs of our commerce be taken from the custom houses where they are collected? The question of navigation has been referred to. How should that be divorced again from the question of our residue, which is naturally a question of finance and intimately, in fact entirely associated with the duties of the Secretary of the Treasury in every country I know of. I do not think it would be at all impossible to create a department to take up the subject of commerce; but they must be subjects of commerce somewhat different, or differently stated, from those in the Act referred to by Mr. How of Chicago. You cannot conveniently, or with any good effect, divorce a good many of the subjects you mentioned in that Act, from the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Treasury, as their course is through the custom houses of the country. That is where you get your statistics and the most valuable statistics, in relation to navigation, licensing of ship-masters, which is again purely or largely a matter of finance, and so forth. The Government receives certain compensation in the way of fees, and those go to the Secretary of the Treasury, through the medium of the custom house. There are perhaps purposes which a Board of Commerce or a Department of Commerce might be formed to carry out, and in which it might do good; but I do not see at this



present moment how you can divorce a great many of the subjects mentioned in the Act, from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. POPE: The resolution does not contemplate any such divorce.

Mr. TUCKER: That is true; but in speaking on the subject a large amount of the discussion has been based on such a purpose, in establishing a department of commerce.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: I think it is hardly worth while to discuss what we may call the details of this question. The National Board of Trade has been thoroughly committed in action taken heretofore to the desirableness of a Department of Commerce. The recommendation has gone forward frequently. To my mind inasmuch as the interests of agriculture are by no means so complex or so diversified as those of commerce, the department which has been made for agriculture should have been a Bureau of the Department of Commerce. In order to get this question adjusted practically, it seems to me it may be done in this way: modify the resolution before us to this effect:

*Resolved*, That the title of the Department of Agriculture be changed so as to be entitled the Department of Commerce, Agriculture, and Industry, and that Congress be memorialized accordingly.

I think the word "Industry" is scarcely necessary, but if we have it in resolution we cover the whole ground. I move the adoption of the amendment,—unless Mr. How will accept it.

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. How is absent from the room, but in a conversation I had with him I think it will be entirely satisfactory to him to adopt the suggestion of Mr. GANO. I second the motion just made.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: I fail to derive any information in reference to the question that I asked, that would lead me to favor this motion, either in its original or its present form. It seems to me that no good reason has been given for connecting the Department of Agriculture with that of Commerce. There is no connection between those two subjects. They have no natural relation to each other, whereas the Department of Commerce has a very natural relation to the Treasury Department.

If any change is to be recommended by this Board it would seem to be wise to have the Department of Commerce entirely independent of the subject of Agriculture. The fact that a new Department of Agriculture has been or is to be established would be no reason for our attaching to it this subject. The result would simply be separating the present Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department from that Department and placing it under the control and in connection with the Department of Agriculture with which as I say, it has no natural relation or connection. I am unable to see that the Department of Statistics has been at all inefficient. It seems to me the statistics which it has furnished the country have been generally regarded as valuable,—as accurate. They are perhaps slow; they are behind time, as is the case with all the statistics of the Government. I cannot think that any remedy in that respect would be provided by separating that Bureau from the Treasury Department and placing it under the control of the Agricultural Department, which has always been notoriously slow with all its statistics.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: My answer to Mr. BACON is this: The two things, commerce and agriculture, are so interwoven that their separation is positively impossible. To be sure they may be put in separate Bureaus. We gentlemen complain of the slowness of the Agricultural Bureau under the Treasury Department. I do not see if the Commercial Department of the Treasury is conducted satisfactorily and expeditiously, why it might not be just as well done in a Department of Commerce and Agriculture as in a department of money, commerce, agriculture and other industries. Commerce amounts to nothing without agriculture.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: I notice that the labor men are agitating for a Department of Labor, or for a Minister of Labor in the Cabinet. It seems to me that there is great danger of having too many advisers for the President. It seems to me it would be well for us perhaps to recommend rather a remodelling in some respects of the Department of the Interior and Agriculture, so that both commerce and labor might be represented better than they are now in the Cabinet, without adding any new ministers. The duties might be remodelled so as to give more attention to labor and commerce as well as agriculture. Of course

commerce amounts to little without agriculture. Probably neither of them would amount to much without labor. So that they are all probably entitled to be represented in the Cabinet. At the same time I feel doubtful whether any more Cabinet Ministers would be desirable.

Mr. PARSONS, of New York: We have heard this afternoon from the admirable paper that was read by Mr. PRICE of Scranton about the very great growth of our country during the past fifty years. I think the growth of our country perhaps should lead to some addition to the Cabinet; and yet we know how difficult it would be to accomplish it. It is a commercial adage which I think everybody is willing to accept, that half a loaf is better than no bread. Therefore I hope Mr. GANO's amendment will prevail and that these two departments may be consolidated.

The PRESIDENT; The question is upon the amendment suggested by Mr. GANO, which proposes to make a preamble in the first place of the resolution from Chicago and to ask at the conclusion of it by a resolution, for the connection of the Department of Commerce with the Department of Agriculture.

The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution as amended was agreed to.

The hour of 5 P. M. having arrived, the Board, adjourned until to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock.

## SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, Nov. 15, 1888.

The Board was called to order at 10.30 A. M. by the President.

The SECRETARY read the minutes of the proceedings of yesterday.

Mr. How, of Chicago: The Committee on Credentials have received the application of the Omaha Board of Trade and find the same in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, and therefore recommend that that organization be admitted to membership.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The first business in order is the consideration of Proposition I in regard to the adulteration of lard, presented by the Chicago Board of Trade.

The SECRETARY read the Proposition as follows:

*Whereas*, Rendered fat from the hog, in its pure state, has always been branded and known as lard, and under this name has become one of the necessities of life, universal in its use, unquestioned in its quality, and has grown to be one of the most important articles of export; and,

*Whereas*, During the last few years competition among refiners and dealers has caused them to seek for cheap fats with which to adulterate lard for the purpose of underselling each other, thus causing large quantities of a compound made from the fats of the various animals and vegetables to be placed on the home market, shipped abroad, and branded lard; and

*Whereas*, Such adulteration of lard has grown to be a national scandal, and has seriously damaged the good name of American lard, both in this country and abroad; and,

*Whereas*, A few years ago shippers and curers, in their anxiety to get

business by underselling each other, made shipments to Europe of partially cured meats, which were branded "fully cured," thus giving a pretext to France and Germany to prohibit the importation of American hog meats, on the ground that they were infected with trichina, thereby placing an unjust stigma upon American meats, resulting in great loss to our agricultural interests and to our export trade; and,

*Whereas*, Judging from the action of France and Germany against our meats, we fear the refiners abroad may induce foreign governments to prohibit the importation of all American lard, thus damaging the export trade and diminishing the consumption of honest lard at home, to the financial detriment of the agricultural interests of this country which, to-day own about fifty million hogs, worth over \$300,000,000, and further damaging America's good name in the commerce of the world;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends to the Congress of the United States, the enactment of such laws and regulations as will compel all refiners and dealers to brand all adulterated lard "Compound lard," or with some brand such as will plainly distinguish the pure from the impure article, in order that the consumers at home and abroad may know the one from the other.

Mr. How, of Chicago: Mr. President, the gentleman who was to present this matter in behalf of the Chicago Board of Trade is not present this morning. I will simply state in order that the proposition may come properly before the Board that these resolutions were adopted by the Board of Directors of the Chicago Board of Trade and sent to the Illinois delegation and to other members of Congress, and referred to the proper committees. It is a matter in which we feel a very great interest, particularly the gentlemen who represent the export business on our Board. I understand there are one or two gentlemen here who are connected with some of the large establishments that are opposed to the Board's taking any action upon the resolution; but I think it is very desirable that the National Board of Trade should endorse the proposition as it is upon the programme.

Mr. LEE, of St. Louis: Mr. President, I presume it is well known to a large number of the members of this Board that this matter has been before Congress, and that certain bills have been prepared and are now pending which cover the question presented for consideration. There was prepared and is now pending before Congress what is known as the Laird bill, which is a bill prepared under the power given to Congress to regulate commerce

between States, and it covers not only the adulteration of food, but also provides that compound articles of food which are sent out from the manufactories shall be branded as such. The bill is general in its nature. It is entirely in harmony with the resolution which was adopted by this Board at its meeting yesterday. The other bill pending before Congress upon the subject of lard is a bill drawn under the power which is given to Congress to raise revenue. I do not suppose it will be urged here by any one that the Government to-day is in need of additional sources of revenue; but, on the contrary, one of the great questions which has been discussed in the recent campaign through which we have passed, has been how to devise means not only for the reduction of the surplus revenue which now exists in the Treasury, but also to provide means for the reduction in the future of that revenue. I understand that the framers of this bill will readily concede that it is not necessary we should have any additional sources of revenue; but that it would be well to put the revenue machinery of the Government upon this article of food for the purpose of regulating it; not for the purpose of bringing in any revenue to the Government, but for the purpose of regulating its manufacture and sale. As a matter of course we can all see at a glance if that is the purpose of the bill, it certainly is using the power of Congress for an improper purpose. If we do not desire to raise any revenue upon the manufacture and sale of lard, then it certainly ought not to go before the people of the country as a revenue measure, and I take it that the character and standing which this National Board of Trade has might perhaps be imperilled by undertaking to endorse a measure which upon its face would not express the honest sentiments of its members. In order that the members of the National Board of Trade may have an intelligent understanding of the scope of the Lard bill, in order that they may see that that bill covers all that is sought to be accomplished by the measure under consideration, I would like to ask the Secretary to read it.

The SECRETARY read the bill.

Mr. LEE, of St. Louis: Mr. President, I voted with great pleasure for the resolution adopted yesterday and which I understood to be practically an endorsement of the bill which has just been read, or something substantially like it. There is a general

law, as you will observe, drawn, as I stated before, under the power given to Congress by the Constitution, to regulate commerce between the States. It has none of the obnoxious features of the internal revenue law to which some of our people are still subjected; a war measure, as we all know, and obnoxious to a great many people of the United States. I have no doubt in the near future the internal revenue law will be repealed as to all other subjects except perhaps liquors. There can be no question as it seems to me, that this bill is broad enough in its terms to cover the article of lard. It provides as you will notice in the 8th section of the bill that wherever articles of food are compounded and placed upon the market they must be branded as compounded articles of food. In addition to that the label which is put upon the article must specify what that article consists of. It seems to me that the provisions of the bill are large enough and broad enough to cover what is sought to be accomplished by the resolution which is presented for action to this body. If the manufacturers of lard are brought under the provisions of this bill, and I may say here that I most heartily endorse it, and I have no doubt the sentiment of the country is in favor of a general bill against the adulteration of all products,—if that bill is broad enough to cover lard, why should we introduce or recommend to Congress the passage of another bill upon a specific article which is covered by that general bill? In other words, what would be the result? If you pass the Laird Bill, the lard manufacturer or dealer is subject to its provisions. The officers provided for in that bill visit the establishments and examine them under the provisions of the bill. Suppose you adopt the bill now before Congress, which this resolution seeks to endorse, which is in the nature of a general revenue bill. You send another corps of officers into the same establishment precisely, and for another purpose. What is the necessity for that? Why single out one article of food and undertake to make it the subject of a burden which you do not put upon other articles of commerce that are in the same category? May it not be possible that this bill has resulted from competition in trade between persons who are engaged in the manufacture of lard? If that be so, this body cannot afford to lend its aid by way of endorsement of a measure which in its nature is undertaking to settle controversies and difficulties which have arisen between men engaged in the same line of business.

I do not understand that to be the object and purpose of this Board of Trade. We want to secure general legislation for the benefit of the country at large. The people of the country are clamoring for the passage of some measure looking to protection against the general adulteration of food products. I think the Laird Bill meets that demand. If it be so, then it is not necessary for this Board to ask for special legislation concerning the particular subject of lard; and that, too, in view of its being a revenue measure; when as I said before we have already more revenue than we know what to do with.

Mr. MAGDEBURG, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, it seems to me that the question before this Board is a very simple one. It is this: Whether we favor by our votes a strict adherence to commercial honesty, or whether we do not, by voting against this resolution. We are asked here by the Chicago Board of Trade to endorse a measure which every honest merchant must certainly approve. I for one cannot see why the gentleman preceding me has brought into this Board an act pending before Congress which is perhaps not opposed to this view, but which has many other points within its scope not bearing upon this subject.

The question before us is whether the sale as lard of a compound which is not lard is honest. That is the way I look at it. I for one consider that the sale of an article as lard which is not strictly lard is dishonest. I shall therefore ask that the motion be put upon this resolution and be brought to a vote, in order to get the sense of this National Board of Trade upon that question and no other. I trust that every merchant here will place himself on record as insisting upon the sale of an article in its actual form, and to prevent any adulterated article being foisted upon the public, whether within the borders of this Union or without.

Mr. TUCKER, of Philadelphia: Mr. President, I think the gentleman who last spoke seems to confound the objects and purposes of the resolution. As I read the resolution it is that the National Board of Trade recommends to Congress the enactment of such laws and regulations as will compel certain things. The Board is not asked to pass on the abstract question of business honesty. On that question there would be no difference of opinion. Such a resolution would certainly prevail. If it were



a mere resolution committing this Board to the statement that the adulteration of lard is dishonest or a dishonest practice in the abstract, there could be no difference of opinion. But the resolution of the Chicago Board of Trade does not ask that. It asks specifically that this Board shall advocate certain measures in prevention of the adulteration of lard. I think the point is well taken by the gentleman from St. Louis (Mr. LEE), that if this enactment is conceded to meet the purposes of the resolution of the Chicago Board of Trade which are to prevent any adulteration, it would not be necessary to advocate any other legislation, and it would be much better, if it is conceded that the legislation meets the point, to favor the adoption of the specific legislation by a vote of endorsement by this Board of Trade. In other words we are asked to consider a certain resolution, and not for the endorsement of an abstract principle of business about which there could be no doubt of an unanimous vote. I think the law as read, although general, certainly must meet this particular infirmity of the lard trade.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: Mr. President, it strikes me this is a fairly practical question to be met by us and by Congress, if it shall pass upon the bill now before it for deliberation. I suggest that we are all in favor, or substantially so, of the bill before Congress. I think we are well agreed as to the proposition from the Chicago Board of Trade with regard to the adulteration of lard. I suggest that the friends of the Chicago measure consult with the gentlemen who take a different view—perhaps from St. Louis—and that they frame a resolution calling on Congress to incorporate in this bill now under deliberation in Congress the subject of the adulteration of lard, if not already provided for by the bill as it stands. I think we shall agree upon that. If the friends of the measure introduced by the Chicago Board of Trade will bring before us a resolution to that effect I think we shall be perfectly agreed and pass upon it well-nigh unanimously.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: It seems to me if we attempt to do what has been proposed we may endanger the passage of the whole measure. This bill which has been read is a very important bill and covers a thousand different industries. We include lard in the Laird bill and expect it to go through in that way. The

whole bill may be killed and the lard measure may be killed also. I think our position should be this: While we approve of the Laird bill with its many different regulations and its many thousand industries, still if that is not to be passed, we hope and pray that Congress will pass the lard bill, because it has already affected and may still further affect our trade in Europe because of the adulteration of lard. Whether the Laird bill is passed or not, we wish this lard bill passed. If we make them both one there is danger that it will take a longer time to reconcile the other industries of the country to the passage of this broad bill, while the bill regulating lard alone may pass speedily with little opposition. I think therefore it would be a mistake to incorporate lard into the Laird bill without having a separate bill affecting that subject alone.

Mr. MORRISON, of Cincinnati: I endorse the sentiment expressed by Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee. I am in favor of the resolution of the Chicago Board of Trade. I think this body will be in no danger, and its good name will be in no danger by adopting anything that seeks to surround pure articles of food with protection. I am also in favor of the Laird Bill. It is a good bill, but it is so very general in its scope that it may be years before it is passed. So many questions are involved and so many interests are at stake that it will be severely fought. Among other questions, the question of State rights perhaps will come up. The question of pure lard is an urgent question. Foreign Governments have already taken action in the matter. Much spurious lard has gone to Europe from this country, and has been condemned and confiscated, and in some cases fines have been enforced in case of its importation. I think the lard bill is very urgent and I favor the adoption of the resolution offered by the Chicago Board of Trade.

Mr. DREIER, of Chicago: I beg to submit a few words on this subject, suggested by Mr. JOHNSTON and Mr. MORRISON. I do not believe there will be any danger to the Laird bill on account of lard. Lard is dealt with under this general bill like any other article of food. It may be well to mention here, that the interest which last winter and spring fought so earnestly against special lard legislation at Washington had this whole matter discussed fully, and the country, and I may say the world at large, was

informed thoroughly on all the conditions of the lard trade. This interest was the cotton-oil interest of the south. They are heartily in favor of the Laird bill. They do not want adulteration any more than anybody else. They have no greater interest in having cotton seed oil adulterated with lard than packers have in having lard adulterated with cotton seed oil. The producers of cotton seed oil in the South have a much greater interest in gradually working towards an independent position for their product. To that end they have supported this bill of Mr. LAIRD of Nebraska and they have anticipated some of its provisions already. The most important manufacturers of what was formerly called refined lard, and is to a large extent called refined lard to-day, a mixture of lard, beef-fat and cotton seed oil, no longer brand this article as lard. This is done to some extent yet by pork-packers, but the large manufacturers of this mixture which answers the purposes of lard and presents itself to the commerce of the world and to the consumers of the world on its own merits, have already changed their brand in order to conform to this bill and they wish others to do the same, so that they as soon as possible may stand outside all this discussion about lard as an article of commerce which supposedly is more adulterated than other articles. You would hardly call a mixture of lard, cotton seed oil and beef-fat sold under a specific brand, an adulteration of lard. Lard holds its own. It is sold by its producers, recommended and advertised by them under the name of lard. None of these producers have ever used the term of refined lard for their product: None of them use the term "refined lard compound" for their product. A great many of them do present you with compounds of different fats. Hog fats were formerly known as lard, but lard now contains other parts of the hog which were not known as lard. They can sell their lard, and the people who manufacture a mixture of other food fats containing lard call them "lard compounds." It is in the interest of this great industry of cotton seed oil in the South that the compound which contained this oil and is the greatest carrier of this oil into the world's markets should be known as what it is and should recommend itself to its users in accordance with its merits. That is largely the case. It is consumed all over this country and in Europe in large quantities. All the lard we produce in this country is eaten up every year and all the cotton oil we produce

in this country is eaten up every year. Political economy does not clamor for lard particularly. It clamors for useful, sweet, wholesome food fats. Lard is one of them. If it is properly made, cotton seed oil is another one. Lard is only wholesome if it is properly made. Beef fat is also another good wholesome food fat if properly made. There is no objection to the mixture of the three. The only objection that has been advanced has been against selling them under wrong names. That has largely been done away with. The largest manufacturers of the mixture use no longer, and have not for a long time used, any brands which are not distinctive enough so as to call the attention of everybody to them. The word "compound" mentioned in the bill has been adopted by the largest manufacturers of these compound lards and it has been promised that it shall be put in use by some of the other important manufacturers and the whole trade will undoubtedly follow. In accordance with public opinion and in accordance with the general idea of what is just and right, this change will be made. There is no particular necessity to hurry with any bill before Congress.

What I have said disposes of the supposed necessity of passing a special lard bill in order to secure the passage of something which might at least in one direction reform the manufacture of that product. The cotton seed oil interest and the lard interest are heartily in favor of the Laird bill. There need be no fear of any opposition on their part. They are just as willing as anybody else to do exactly what is right. The Laird bill deals with slaughter houses. It deals with rendering establishments. It deals with the producers of the fats exactly alike. There is no need of any special legislation directed either against the slaughter houses or against the renderers of food fats. For that reason I certainly think the passage of a special resolution concerning the object in question is uncalled for and would rather show that this Board favors interference in trade wrangles between two factions of producers, the producers of hog fat and the producers of fat from cotton-seed oil. One is as much an article of food as the other, and has as much right to the markets of the world as the other. Both are products of our own country. It appears rather out of the way for the National Board of Trade to step forward and recommend any measure which in the remotest degree tends to show favoritism for one and animosity for the other.

Mr. BAKER, of Chicago: This is not a wrangle between producers as stated by the last speaker. The resolution before us is the result of considerable deliberation by the directors and active officers of the Chicago Board of Trade and is designed as a matter of protection to honest American commerce. That is the whole object. We know that the tendency of legislation in foreign countries is and has been for some time past against our products. Our meats are practically shut out from the continent of Europe, inexcusably so, we believe. In this matter of lard adulteration we are at present giving them an excuse to carry that still further, not only in the countries that have already legislated against us, but in Great Britain, which is our best customer. The object of a bill of this sort, if it can be passed, is to allay that apprehension, that suspicion that we are trying to swindle them in an important article of commerce. It will do us no harm. It will do no harm to any producer of honest goods. We simply want our products sold for what they are, cotton-seed oil for cotton-seed oil, and lard for lard. That is the object and purpose of this bill. The Laird bill, if I understand it, includes nearly everything we eat and drink. I have never read it completely through; only a portion of it. I understand that is the object. We need a specific bill for this subject. We are not exporters of spices nor exporters of groceries. We import more than we export. Lard is one of our largest articles of export and the object of this resolution is primarily to defend and protect that part of our commerce. As such, I think there should not be one dissenting voice in this National Board of Trade against it. The gentleman who was expected to present this subject expressly for the Chicago Board of Trade is absent, and I don't know whether he will be here to speak for it. It does not seem to me it ought to be necessary.

Mr. COWAN, of Louisville: Mr. President, it seems to me we are taking up a great deal too much time in the discussion of this simple resolution, which is merely a recommendation to Congress for the enactment of such regulations as will compel all refiners and dealers to brand their adulterated lard "compound lard" or with some brand such as will plainly distinguish the pure from the impure article, in order that the consumers at home and abroad may know the one from the other. It is in the direct line of the Laird Bill. It may be fully covered by the Laird Bill and it may

not be : but whether or not that be the case, it certainly can do no harm for this National Board of Trade to pass a resolution which is in line with the sentiments of the members of the Board. I think we ought to have the question disposed of. It can do no harm whatever to pass a simple resolution recommending that Congress shall pass such a law as we all believe ought to be passed.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo : I have heard the discussion in relation to this subject with a great deal of interest and I feel more and more that it is a very important subject. Of course, we should not act upon it hastily. There is no food which is consumed so largely as lard. It is one of the largest products of our country. Therefore I am strongly in favor of this resolution as it stands forth by itself, that we may impress Congress with the belief that this very identical article is the one we want it to legislate upon, irrespective of all other adulterations. Of course, we are all in favor of the Laird bill. I would like very much to change this resolution in one respect. I refer to the words "compound lard." I would not have the word "lard" on anything that is not pure lard. I would have pure lard lard, and have the other names not to include the word lard. That is my view of it. I am heartily in favor of this resolution, although I would like to dispose of the words "compound lard," as I regard that as a rather ambiguous term. People do not generally understand it. I hope this resolution will pass, and while we advocate the Laird bill let Congress consider this as a separate and important matter with respect to the subject of lard.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SECRETARY then read Proposition IV, Monthly Crop Bulletins, proposed by the Chicago Board of Trade, with the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends the discontinuance of monthly crop bulletins, by the Department of Agriculture, as their only effect has been to disturb the world's markets, without giving any reliable information.

Mr. BAKER, of Chicago : This is not a matter in which Congress interests itself. The monthly crop bulletins are made by the sta-

tistician of the Department of Agriculture. We do not ask for the abolition of all the Government observation of the crops, or Government statistics in regard to the crops. We do ask that there shall be a cessation of these monthly bulletins, which our experience shows to be absolutely worthless. They are worse than worthless. They have cost the country hundreds of millions of dollars in the last five or six years. There is no question about that. They are always faulty and they always must be faulty. It is impossible for the Government statistician on the first day of any month in this year to acquire information that will be of any general value to the world. I say it is absolutely impossible for him to acquire such information and put it into a bulletin. We have had a good many instances of serious errors in this matter. It is, I think, a matter that nobody in the business in which I am engaged can doubt that the present statistician—and he is the past statistician, too, for I think he is the only one we have ever had—usually sets out with the proposition that the crop is perfect. He makes a bulletin as to the condition of the crops. He commits himself to an enormous production. He seems to think it is a good thing to advertize to the effete monarchies of the Old World that we have got and can produce more in this country than they can possibly use, and encourage them to keep away from us just as long as they can. As an example, last June the statistician published a bulletin in regard to the condition of the wheat crop. There was nobody in the wheat trade that understood what he meant by it. His language was so obscure that nobody could accurately figure out what he did mean. We in the grain trade who were interested in it, knew that there was a very poor prospect at that time; but, as a result of the ambiguity of this bulletin, a great many inquiries went directly to the statistician for an explanation. Among others, the Secretary of our Board of Trade made three inquiries during one day in regard to those bulletins to try to find out what they meant.

Among other things, the statistician telegraphed to the Secretary of our Board that the present condition—that is to say, the condition of spring wheat on the first day of June last indicated a yield of thirteen bushels an acre. Twelve bushels is the average yield as shown by the annual reports of the Department. At that time he made the indications one bushel an acre above the average. All of us know that the spring wheat crop this season

was seeded more than a month late, and that there was never a crop that amounted to much under such conditions. On the first day of June, where the crop had germinated at all it did not average a growth of three inches, and in the important district of the Red River valley, where nearly all the surplus wheat comes from it had not even germinated. That is a fact, gentlemen, that I know; and yet this official at that time was able to say that the indications pointed to a yield of thirteen bushels an acre. It is such information as that that is given out to the public and that goes abroad and induces the English bears to sell wheat in our markets and sell the price down to the disadvantage of American producers. The same misinformation goes to every producer in this country. I am stating something that my knowledge of affairs this year shows to be correct. A farmer in Indiana reads the Government bulletins and makes up his mind that there is a big crop of wheat and he sells all he has. This has actually been done in some large sections in Indiana this year. Farmers sell all their wheat on the supposition that there is enough and more than enough. They have to find out, by-and-by, that there is not enough; and that very section is reaching out now into other places and buying wheat to supply their own wants, on account of the misinformation of this Department of Agriculture.

Now, if it only made one report a year, as is done in every other country where crops are reported upon at all, that would be very much better. The English government does not make a report upon the crops of England until it knows what they are. It does not begin in June by telling people what it thinks they are going to be, or what it looks like; but waits until the crop is harvested and then gives definite figures of it. The statistician at Washington gives definite figures of the wheat crop, for instance, — I am talking about wheat now especially, — in December. He stated definite figures last December. He said that the crop of wheat of the United States was 456,000,000 bushels. The commercial operations of the world were conducted on that basis all winter long. In March, he issued his annual report, covering the year 1887, and he tells us there are 445,000,000 bushels, eleven millions less than he had figured on the first day of December. Eleven millions of bushels of wheat on a crop is a good many bushels, gentlemen. It is about one-tenth as much as we ever export. It is half the product of the State of Illinois. It is more,



I think, than is grown in all the New England States. It is rather a large discrepancy. How did he make it? By stating that the weight was a little short and that in bushels of sixty pounds the crop was 445,000,000 bushels. He had not stated in his December report that his first estimate was in bushels of sixty pounds. All the world trades in wheat by weight. Nobody thinks of buying measured bushels. There is no farmer in America that sells measured bushels. Every farmer sells bushels by weight; the miller buys by weight and sells his flour by weight; all the commercial transactions are by weight.

I do not propose to take up all the errors. It would take too long. I could name many errors as resulting from these monthly bulletins. I will simply say what I know to be the case, that they have never benefited anybody in the grain trade but the men who are interested in an over-estimate of crops and in having the over-estimate continually before the people. You all know there are enough of them not only in this country but on the other side of the water. It has all been done at the cost of the American farmer. Our prices have been lowered by a good many cents a bushel in the last two or three or four years than they would have been if we had had an intelligent report once a year from the Agricultural Department.

Mr. WEISSINGER, of Louisville: Statistical reports are valuable in proportion to their correctness. I agree with the gentleman who preceded me in this: that these reports can only be valuable by being in a measure correct; that if they cannot come nearer the truth than they have been they had better be abolished. I think the better plan would be to petition Congress to perfect this Department in order that we might get nearer the truth through it.

In 1887 we had a failure of the tobacco crop in Kentucky. The failure was so general and so well known that it needed no official information to convince the country of the fact. Yet a report came from the Agricultural Department, at Washington, that we were raising almost an average crop. It stirred up the whole State, so much so that we got a committee to go on to Washington; a committee of some twelve or fifteen tobacco people left their fields and their factories and their commission houses, and went to Washington with the proof and begged the Department to change its report and make it according to the facts. We had

great difficulty, because having once given out this information, the Department was slow to take it back and acknowledge its error; but we succeeded by proof that could not be denied, in compelling them to retract the damaging statement which had been made.

Now I say that this information is very necessary to the whole country provided it is correct. But if it is not correct then we had better have no information at all. That is the position I occupy.

Mr. BAKER, of Chicago: Allow me to say one word I omitted to say. It is a fact that is admitted by everybody in the grain trade, that there has been almost a total failure of the spring wheat crop of the Northwest the present season. There has been nothing in any bulletin issued by the Agricultural Department yet, to give a man who depended upon those bulletins for his information, the slightest inkling of the fact; not one.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, I wish to offer a substitute for this proposed resolution from the Chicago Board of Trade, and I will preface it by saying that it seems to me instead of depriving the country of the benefit of these reports of the Agricultural Department, however imperfect they may be—and I do not say they are perfect or nearly so by a great deal—we should take such steps as will enable the Department to secure accuracy and completeness in its reports. To my certain knowledge the Bureau of Statistics has been hampered for want of means to carry on necessary investigations. It has frequently alluded to that fact in its reports. It is still hampered in this manner. Without money to spend for the collection of these statistics it is not to be supposed that they should be correct, or even approximately so, although in fact they are, as I may say, approximately correct. It is only a wonder, with the inadequate means at the command of the Department, they have been as correct as they have been. But for the purpose of giving the action of this Board of Trade the direction of perfecting this system, I offer the following as a substitute:

Whereas, The annual appropriations made by Congress for the use of the Agricultural Bureau have been insufficient to enable the Bureau to make such outlay as seems to be requisite to insure the necessary completeness and

accuracy of its monthly estimates of the area and condition of the various crops of the country, and the desired promptitude in publishing the same, therefore,

*Resolved*, That Congress be memorialized by this Board to make such appropriations for the use of this Bureau, or the newly established Department of Agriculture, as may be deemed necessary for the purpose by the head of said Bureau or Department; and further,

*Resolved*, That the Bureau or Department be respectfully requested to take into consideration the expediency of establishing agencies at the several State capitals, whose duty it shall be to collect and collate statistical information and transmit the results to the Bureau or Department, by telegraph, with a view to securing the more expeditious compilation of the same, and the publication of the general result for the country at large, not later than the fifth day of each month.

I offer this last resolution in view of the fact that the reports as heretofore made have been so tardy in their appearance as to be sometimes almost valueless in consequence of subsequent changes that have taken place in the conditions and prospects of the crop. These figures can be collated more readily, as will be seen by anyone, in States, than in any other manner. If the figures are transmitted to central points in each State, and then collated and the results submitted by telegraph to Washington, and their accuracy confirmed by repeating back the figures, they ought to be promulgated to the country by telegraph in three days. But to give ample time I say not later than the fifth of each month. Reports of this kind, as everybody knows, are less and less valuable as time progresses; that is, as to the prospective appearance or the prospective indications of crops. Oftentimes after the figures have been collated by the Bureau on the first day of the month, important changes take place in the condition of the growing crop and later prospects entirely upset and very largely modify the situation from what it was on the first day of the month. So it is very important that these reports should be dissipated through the country at the earliest practical date.

I wish to make one or two remarks in relation to what has been said by our friend Mr. BAKER. This resolution is introduced with reference to the bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture. Those bulletins are issued on the tenth day of each month. Mr. BAKER refers to the replies of the Department to telegrams sent on the publication of those bulletins. The Chicago

Board presents a proposition to discontinue those bulletins; but after having received them, not satisfied with the information promulgated by them, which in the judgment of the Department were as full and complete as was possible at the time, it seeks by telegram to the statistician to receive further information which in the nature of the case must be merely guesses. A guess as to the product of the wheat crop when, as Mr. BAKER says, the plant is not more than three inches from the ground, is but a wild guess and of no value to anyone. And that anyone should telegraph to the Department for an estimate as to what spring wheat was going to produce when it was only three inches out of the ground it seems to me certainly a very strange proceeding. I know at the time other parties telegraphed to the statistician asking for the acreage of spring wheat, and obtained the information. These two replies were put together and very strange results produced from them. It does have the appearance almost of a design to put the Department in a position that would subject it to ridicule.

Further, I think that perhaps the difficulties in relation to these reports of the Department arise from the fact that they are regarded not as reports of the existing conditions, but as predictions of what the crop is to be.

They are put forth only as statements of what the crop at the present time or at the time of their issue promised to be. They are put forth as subject to all the contingencies of wind, weather, rain and drought, and all other contingencies. If the trade looked at them in that light and regarded them only as suggestions in regard to the present indications of the crop and what the crop would be, provided the circumstances continued favorable until its maturity, there would certainly be less liability for them to be misleading. But the reports have been put forth professedly by the Department in this spirit and for this purpose; and if men desire to look forward into the future and anticipate what the returns are to be when there is no ground on which such anticipations can be founded, they must thank themselves only for the incorrectness of the result at which they arrive. The question with us is simply, it seems to me, whether we are to dispense with this most valuable means of information with regard to the prospects of the crops of the country; not only wheat or grain, but cotton and tobacco, and all the important products of the country, and to take in place of them and depend upon and be guided by,

first, the estimates of interested parties on one side or the other; second, half-informed newspaper correspondents or commercial editors, who assume to have omniscient knowledge in respect to the affairs of the country, and reach their results generally from a standpoint of observation covering perhaps only a State or even a portion of a State; or whether we are to take the estimates of our extensive agricultural implement manufacturers, who also maintain Bureaus of Statistics, and other professional statisticians and experts, some of whom ride over the railroads in palace cars and take a glance out of a window at a speed of forty miles an hour and then report what the crop is going to be two or three months later; or professional experts like Mr. PRIME, who gets his statistics in all sorts of ways and with as little expense of course as possible, as he does it for the purpose of money making; and who, when he collects the result of his work takes a State that produces 15,000,000 bushels and puts it against another State that produces 50,000,000 and another that produces 30,000,000, adds up the three States and divides the total by the number of States, and in that way gets the average percentage of the country. I might go on and name other amateur statisticians who flood the country with all sorts of professedly valuable information. It is a question, as I say, whether we shall abandon the most effective means and method of obtaining statistical information in relation to the crops of the country and substitute in its place all these various reliable or unreliable sources, as they may be. To my mind it seems far better to go on and improve what we have, build up, strengthen and sustain a Department that is disinterested; that desires to produce correct and true information without bias of interest and without a preconceived theory which it desires to maintain, as is often the case in amateur statistics. The question with us is whether we shall go on and perfect this system, and have something that is reliable and valuable, or whether we shall depend on all these wild-cat sources of information to which I have referred. I think on this subject the statistician of the Agricultural Department is entitled to be heard to some extent, and I will refer you to his annual report for 1886, which is the last annual report published, although monthly reports have been published from month to month. The report for 1887 is not yet out of the printer's hands. This is an illustration of the tardiness of the Department and the necessity of enabling it to be more prompt in its publication.

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Mr. POPE, of Chicago: Gentlemen, I desire to say a few words in regard to this resolution, first of a personal character. I did not know it was to be on the official programme (being absent at the time our delegates had their conference), until I saw it in its printed form, or I would have suggested, perhaps, some slight changes in it. I would rather it would read:

*Resolved,* That the National Board of Trade recommend the discontinuance of monthly crop bulletins by the Department of Agriculture, as their effect has often been to disturb the world's markets without giving such definite information as to be of value.

However, I have listened with some interest to the much longer resolution offered by Mr. BACON, and were he to add at its close a clause suggesting that the Agricultural Department should discontinue these monthly bulletins until it had reached that efficiency in the discharge of its duties which he admits does not now exist and for which he so earnestly pleads, we perhaps might agree with him. The Chicago Board of Trade is as ready as any Board in the world to receive monthly bulletins, provided these monthly bulletins are not absolutely misleading. We have no charge whatever to make against the statistics of the General Government, aside from these monthly reports of the Bureau of Agriculture. Gentlemen, let us understand the matter fairly as we shall discuss it. As to Mr. Switzler's Bureau we have nothing but the fullest compliments. As to the consular reports, we highly appreciate them. But it is true and can be proven by Mr. Dodge's own records that his monthly reports have been grossly misleading. I ask Mr. BACON or any other gentleman if the monthly reports upon the tobacco crop had not better be suppressed, rather than be issued in a case like that cited by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WEISSINGER)? Would not any man vote for the suppression of *such* a monthly report? It is better suppressed than to be issued wrong and afterwards apologized for and corrected. Who can tell the mischief done in the interim? I happen to have Mr. Dodge's bound volume of reports for the year 1887, (a little later than 1886), and I propose to confine myself very briefly to some of his statistics, and first in regard to the wheat crop of Dakota. I am not going to burden this intelligent convention with any of my individual opinions about what Mr. Dodge's mistakes have been. I hope to succeed in convincing you by a statement of Dodge vs. Dodge.

I hope to convict him out of his own mouth that his monthly crop reports are not only valueless, but a positive damage to the trade, because of their misleading effect. It is not what I think about the wheat crop or what my intelligent correspondents think and know. It is not that. Let us analyze the effect of Mr. Dodge's statements upon the grain trade in this country. In his Dakota wheat crop report for June 1887, on page 222, he says that the acreage is twenty-four per cent. greater than in 1886. It is not a question of prophetic figuring, as Mr. BACON has so mildly declared in his defence. Here is a straight assertion of the fact, at a time when his Department should have given him whatever information was necessary as to the actual acreage. This is not a prediction of what the acreage will be, but it is an assertion as to what the acreage seeded to wheat was for the spring 1887, some time after that acreage was completed and finished. If you care for the figures I will say that the acreage for 1886 was 2,675,350. Add 24 per cent. to that and you get a total of 3,317,422 acres, or an increase of 642,000. Everybody has his tabulated statement of the acreage of 1886 and everybody has a pencil to calculate what the acreage must be for 1887, on a 24 per cent. increase. But when he makes up his final report, (which I have here) for December 1887, on page 627, he gives you as the final acreage 3,664,737. He figures the increase in the acreage more than 50 per cent. above his previous estimate. He waits until the trade has invested their money in wheat on the basis of acreage reported in June, and as I will show you a little further on, also based on a per centage of yield per acre. After the mischief has been thoroughly done he comes out in December and greatly increases his own per centage without any explanation. His December report makes the per centage an increase of 50 per cent. more in acreage, than the previous report, without a hint being given of any such radical change in any of the intervening reports for July, August, September, October or November, and without any explanation or apology in the December report for the radical change which then first appears.

In regard to corn, there is a wonderful increase every year in Dakota ; but for that same year he gives a reduction in the acreage in corn. That is a side issue, but I only call your attention to it in this connection.

As to wheat yield per acre in Dakota in 1887, in his October

report, page 476, two to three months after the crop was harvested, he distinctly places the yield at 10.05 per acre. In his October report he distinctly states that to be the yield for Dakota. This is not a prophecy. It is his assertion of fact, an assertion after the consummation of the fact referred to; while in the final report in December only two months later, he gives you a total yield on the swelled acreage, of 52,406,000, which makes the average yield per acre 14.03. He has jumped his increase of per centage in the acreage 50 per cent. He has changed his figures in the yield per acre nearly 40 per cent.; not on prophecy but on his own assertion as to what ought to have been the fact. Now I ask you whether or not the merchants of Chicago who have handled in years past 34,000,000 bushels of wheat and in some years 97,000,000 bushels of corn, have not a right to ask that this sort of misleading so-called advance information shall be suppressed? At least until such time as the Department shall have reached that degree of efficiency for which Mr. Bacon pleads, and at which his resolution hints.

This is not a question of prophecy at all. It is a question of Mr. Dodge contradicting Mr. Dodge within the short space of two or three months.

Then again as to his final report. As Mr. BAKER has shown you he starts out with a certain assertion as to what the crop will be and then he modifies it and tells you later that he did not mean the ordinary sort of bushel at all, but some other bushel. In the report for 1887, on page 413, you will find he estimates the winter wheat crop at 5.08 below that of 1886, and the spring wheat crop at 5.06 per cent. below that of 1885, or an average of about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  all around, which would give us a reduction on the crop of 1887 from that of 1886, of twenty-six million bushels. This is stated after the crop is harvested. But in his annual report after the trade had supposed the crop was to be twenty-six million short, he comes out with the beggarly difference of less than one million bushels.

One or two things more. I have to deal with facts. I would like very much to attack the line of prophecy in which he has indulged, but gentlemen might be ready to say there were changes arising from climatic influences and all that sort of thing which justified Mr. Dodge. So I have chosen to confine myself entirely to figures made up after the consummation of the facts. These



are the things that are so damaging, and these are the things which make these reports unworthy. I now call your attention to a few other things as showing what I think is a state of indolence in the Department for which no one can apologize. This is but another hint as to the unworthiness of these reports.

For the years of 1886 and 1887 in the States of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, California, Oregon and Washington Territory, the same identical acreage for corn is given, one year after the other. If you will run through the acreage for 1886 and the acreage for 1887 you will find them identical. What was good for 1886 was good enough for 1887; not a change of one acre, gentlemen. He deliberately tells you that was the identical acreage for each of these States. In some of them the comparison goes further back. He gives the same acreage for Connecticut for the last three years, 1885, 1886, 1887, These are not prophecies, gentlemen, but they are assertions on the part of Mr. Dodge. The figures as to corn acreage for 1884 and 1883 are the same in many states. They are the same in Rhode Island. They are the same in Connecticut. They are the same in Delaware for three consecutive years. The State of West Virginia is the same in 1885 and 1886; and strangely enough, to bring this home to the two great corn growing States of Indiana and Illinois, we find that Mr. Dodge deliberately sets down the same acreage for Illinois in 1885 and 1886, and for the State of Indiana, another of the great corn growing States of the Union, he tells you the acreage is exactly the same in 1886 as it was in 1885. Is that sort of information worth paying for in advance or worth encouraging?

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: It is not paid for. That is the trouble.

Mr. POPE: It is harmful. And it is paid for by the American people, while we pay for it dearly by the mistakes into which our merchants are led in their investments, by these reports. Merchants go on and invest their capital and attempt to operate upon the assertions made, and when the right time comes Mr. Dodge hits us a blow below the belt and upsets his previous statements without apology or explanation. If we are to have any report at all let us have a final one. Let us have one that will attempt to be a sum-

mary and we all abide by it. But these intermediate and damaging productions I think should be suppressed, at least until such time as the Department has reached that efficiency to which Mr. BACON referred.

The same thing was true not only as to 1885 and 1886, but the same acreage in corn was given to Illinois in 1884 and in 1883. He gave Kentucky with its three and a quarter million acres the same identical acreage for each of these two years; and though he bases his annual reports upon the yield per acre, the acreage may be materially more or materially less, but it is good enough duplicated, and it “goes.” I would like to make some remarks upon some of the assertions made by Mr. Dodge in his reports. I think he finds lots of time to travel outside of the Department business in his reports. But that is not the point. I stand here to plead for the interests of Agriculture, as a member of a firm that advances over three millions of dollars yearly in the handling of the actual property of the Northwest. It is in that way I am interested. Speculators may wax and wane, but we have a promise that though the forest and mineral resources of the country may become exhausted, though the coal beds may be at an end, and the oil wells run dry, yet seed time and harvest shall never fail. I delight that I am in the grain trade. I delight that I am in a business that gives to me a guarantee of that kind, a guarantee of perpetuity. I feel my honor is at stake if I do not defend it and foster it against this sort of misleading mis-information.

Mr. Fusz, of St. Louis: I rise to second the substitute of Mr. BACON. We need monthly reports because in our business — I am a flour manufacturer — we try constantly to post ourselves on the situation of the crops of the country, whether we do it privately, or whether we obtain the information from private sources or from agencies. I know of no authority at present to which I would give more credence than that under the auspices of the Federal Government. What we need to-day is not to destroy, but to improve. The remarks of the gentleman from Chicago seem to me entirely against Mr. Dodge as an individual, against his capacity, or his energy, or his intelligence. If a man or a Department is faulty, he or it should be improved. We can do it. These monthly reports have come to the country not as absolute truth, not as absolute predictions, but as furnishing a basis which is looked upon

as impartial, having no money interest behind them, allowing the people to form an idea of what the conditions are and what the results may be. That errors have at times arisen we are all aware of; but in a matter of this kind it is impossible to arrive at the actual truth. I would rather depend upon the Federal Government than upon parties who make it a business to furnish these statistics. I would rather depend upon that source than upon the intelligence furnished by some of the great grain commission houses of the country.

Go at this moment upon the Board of Trade of Chicago, and you will find the most contradictory views held as to the crops, as to the results of this year's crops, views held by parties of intelligence and of standing in the community. We all go for information to some source. These reports have this advantage: That they can be contradicted if in error. In many States there are Agricultural Departments that publish reports. If the report of the Federal Government is in conflict with those State reports an inquiry is set on foot at once. In that way vigilant and intelligent parties are enabled to arrive at something like an approximate idea of the truth. I do not suppose we ever can have the actual truth until the crop is harvested. But I do not see how, with a desire always to look into the future, which is an element of American business, we can get along without some authoritative statements which can be taken by intelligent people as the result of the best information from an impartial source, not as the actual fact. As I say, if the individual in charge is incompetent, or if the Department has not been doing its duty intelligently, or has not the means, let us petition Congress to afford the necessary means to obtain the most full and correct statement or report possible. Take for instance the present winter wheat crop. Wheat this year has been subject to great fluctuations, and we have seen fortunes made and lost upon the condition of the crop. It is certainly of the utmost importance at this moment, in the middle of November, that we should know how much of the winter wheat crop has been sold. That can be arrived at by the use of the reports, and so with regard to each crop. I do not see why a body of intelligent men, a commercial body, as we are, should request the Department to withdraw the monthly bulletins and simply give final results, when, as you may say, those results are all ready to speak for themselves.

Mr. SIDWELL, of Chicago: I desire also to second the motion of Mr. BACON, though our Board has sent this resolution up for adoption by the National Board. I do this for the following reason: That the Department at Washington does furnish statistics that are better than nothing, and better than those furnished by other parties. The gentleman from St. Louis described the situation very admirably when he said you can go among the men dealing in grain in this city and get almost any statistics you wish. The remarks of my colleague, Mr. POPE, were very apt and very true, but he overlooked, I think, in some degree the difficulty of collecting these statistics. He spoke of the corn producing States, and this State for instance. A fact came under my observation a few days ago, in relation to the production of corn in one of the largest corn producing counties in Illinois, in which I have some interest. I found that in a large town there, there were two reporters, one for the State Department at Springfield, Illinois, and one for the Department at Washington. The parties reporting live within twenty rods of each other in the country in a farming community, and make reports of the corn yield. The reports to which I refer were not for this year, but for last year, and were made three months after the harvest had been closed and the corn had been husked. One reported to one Department and made the yield fifteen bushels on an average for the county per acre. The other, equally honest, and seemingly having equal facilities for making up an opinion, reported thirty bushels to the acre. Yet even these reports are better than nothing.

Mr. POPE attacked the monthly reports and all the rest of the reports of the Department. I think it would be better for this Board to try to perfect that Department and increase its efficiency; not to abolish it and not to curtail its usefulness, but rather to add to it. I think Mr. BACON's resolution rather leads in that direction. It is true as Mr. POPE has said that the Department reports are quite unsatisfactory, perhaps we might say incorrect; but as I said before, they are better than nothing, and the best we can get; and I think our efforts should be directed to increasing their efficiency, their accuracy, and their correctness, rather than in the other direction, as a hindrance to them in any respect or in any way. Therefore I shall vote very gladly for the resolution offered by Mr. BACON.

Mr. POPE: One word, and I shall not engage your attention again. I said in the opening of my remarks that if Mr. BACON would add a brief supplement to his resolution I also would support it. I am glad this matter is being discussed in this way. I wish to correct the impression of Mr. SIDWELL, my colleague. I did not attack the annual report, but spoke to the question of the suppression of the monthly reports. I do not believe that many of the annual reports are true, but I do not ask you to accept my opinion. My case was an arraignment of Dodge *vs.* Dodge, and I used the annual report to show the National Board of Trade the inaccuracies of the monthly reports. The gentleman from St. Louis calls to mind a circumstance that occurred last year. I understand he is in the milling business. Let me tell you what Mr. Dodge did last year. Winter wheat is generally seeded about September or October, so that he ought to know the total amount seeded in one State as early as the first of January. I speak especially to my friend from St. Louis. Mr. Dodge, in his June report for 1887, page 222, says, "These reports show a *decrease of 2 per cent.* in the area of winter wheat. The reduction is very slight *everywhere* except in Kansas, where it amounts to twenty-two per cent. In California and Texas there is a small increase, and in Missouri and Oregon."

In his report for April, 1887, page 135, under "State Returns," he says of Illinois, "As compared with the *previous year* there is a slight *falling off* in the area of winter wheat."

Now after having asserted in his April report for 1887, as noted above, that there was a slight falling off in the area of winter wheat *in Illinois*, and after having again asserted in his June report for 1887 (page 222, noted above) that the reduction in the area of winter wheat averaged 2 per cent. and existed everywhere, except in California, Texas, Missouri and Oregon, Mr. Dodge in his final December report for 1887, page 627, unblushingly puts the acreage of winter wheat *in Illinois* at 2,425,092 acres, giving an increase over the area of 1886 of *more than twenty per cent.* This is hurled at the trade without explanation or apology. Which of these reports can be trusted? If the final one is correct, were not the previous ones grossly misleading and well calculated to deceive and damage millers like my friend from St. Louis, and all other merchants in the trade?

Should not the suppression of such woeful inaccuracies, and the evil of their public dissemination be desired? Is the public anxious to spend its money to be misled by its own servant? Let the mischief be throttled. The annual report is sufficient.

Mr. BALLARD, of Louisville: Assuming all the statements which have been made to be correct, I cannot see why Mr. POPE of Chicago should attack the monthly crop bulletins. I happen to be in the milling business myself. What we want is accurate information. If Mr. DODGE is so inaccurate, would it not be better for us to petition Congress for his removal rather than for the curtailment of the information that is to be furnished by the Department of which he is the presiding officer. If Mr. DODGE willfully neglects to disseminate the information which we want, or furnishes us with inaccurate information, what we ought to do is to get some one who will furnish us the information we do want, with the most accuracy possible. I cannot see what possible objection there can be to the substitute offered by Mr. BACON of Milwaukee; and after the remarks of the gentleman presenting that substitute, it does seem almost a waste of time for anybody else to attempt to say anything on the subject.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: Yesterday, at the request of the Chicago Board of Trade, we passed a resolution requesting Congress to establish a Department to gather valuable information from the great centers of the country touching all the various productions into which capital and labor enter. Now we are asked by the same Board of Trade to discontinue a Department which is actually in existence. It seems to me we would be stultifying ourselves to do this. I think all we ought to do would be to request greater efficiency on the part of the Department of Agriculture, instead of abolishing it altogether.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: Our friend, Mr. POPE, of Chicago, has made out a case against Mr. DODGE that would justify his removal, and if the Chicago Board of Trade has not taken action to bring that about, it seems to me the Board is delinquent in its duty. This question of statistics is one of the most embarrassing questions merchants have to deal with. Every day the whole mercantile community may, in its various interests,

find some person or other promoting his own interest by issuing reports of the existing situation with regard to the elements entering into his trade. I would ask the gentlemen who want this statistical information abolished, what they would substitute instead of it? Something will be wanted. Does Chicago propose to furnish accurate and reliable information upon these questions? and if it does, will the country believe it? Because Chicago has the reputation of being the greatest speculative centre in the country and, perhaps, in the world, and there would always be a suspicion that the statistics emanating from here were in the interest of somebody,—I will not say whom. It has been well put by two or three of the gentlemen advocating the proposition of Mr. BACON that, if the statistics are insufficient, or if they are inaccurate, the mercantile interests of the country should make themselves felt and have them made as they ought to be. If that is not the case, is not the mercantile community delinquent in its duty and, therefore, has it any right to complain?

Some years ago, before there was any organization of a system to get statistics by the Government and when the statistics as furnished by mercantile associations were very meagre indeed, before Chicago had a system of statistics, and when Cincinnati, and I think I may say New Orleans, were the only cities in the country that were attempting to furnish anything like accurate statistics concerning their commerce, a gentleman who was connected with a large firm in our city told me their experience in an operation in flour. He said, "We thought we knew it all. We had our agents all over the country, all over the wheat-producing sections. We got the information. We controlled 96,000 barrels of flour in the New York markets." In those days that was a very great operation. They failed. Gentlemen, they thought they knew it all. I can assure you this is a very great country and we do not know it all. It seems to me, it is the particular province of the National Board of Trade, certainly of the constituent members of the National Board of Trade, to try and secure the kind of information in regard to all the mercantile interests of the country that will be reliable. Statistics are very difficult to get. I do not believe there are any more difficult to get than those in regard to agriculture. Take, for instance, the reports that are made to our State by tax duplicates. Every one who is taxed is called upon by the auditor of the State to furnish detailed infor-

mation concerning the products of his farm. It is proposed that the schedule of subjects shall cover everything. Now, to my certain knowledge, within a limited area of observation, that information is not accurate. The farmers furnish it to the best of their ability, perhaps. But they are not always intelligent and not always educated, and they are not a class who appreciate as merchants do the value of these statistics. But the process of education is going on by the system such as Ohio has for the collection of statistics. The process of education is going on by the system that the General Government has. Consequently, it seems to me, we should aid the Government and enable them to see that these sources of information are true and that the information compiled is accurate and reliable. It appears to me it is much better for us to support Mr. BACON's resolution and to address ourselves to that purpose than to endeavor to have the Bureau abolished entirely.

Something was said a little while ago, concerning the statistics of wheat, fall wheat or autumn wheat in December, and whether or not it was growing well, and what effect that will have upon the yield. I will say this: An intelligent farmer will know that if his ground is barren of the crop that he sowed in September, he will have no wheat; and if that fact goes to the Department, is it not a very reliable and very important bit of information? To be sure, if the wheat is six inches high, he cannot tell about the contingencies of the future; but he can certainly tell what the probabilities are and the Department cannot assume to do any more. If it does, it is conducting its business in a very unbusiness-like way. If the ground is bare, the farmer knows he can get no crop from it. That is a very important element of information. To be sure, that may be only in a single district, but these little bits of information from the various districts aggregate the whole. No individual is able to do one whit better than the Department of Agriculture is able to do, and if it does not exercise its ability in a proper way, let us see that it does.

Mr. COLEMAN, of New Orleans: While I have been very much interested in the discussion, I notice that the gentlemen who are interested in the wheat trade particularly do not exactly agree. If we are going to abolish these monthly crop reports, what about cotton? We are very much interested in that in the South.



Then there is sugar and there is tobacco. Tobacco has been mentioned by the gentleman from Louisville. While admitting that the monthly reports of the Government are not as correct as we would like to have them, you do not help matters by abolishing them. Our navy is not as large or as strong as we would like to have it, but it will not help the country to abolish it. I would like to see corrected that which needs correcting. Discharge Mr. DODGE if he is not a competent officer and put some one in his place who is more competent. Instead of abolishing the monthly reports, improve them, and let the merchants of the country be instrumental in this improvement. Let the merchants of the country go to the Government and ask it to improve the monthly reports and not abolish them.

The PRESIDENT: The question will be taken upon the substitute offered by the gentleman from Milwaukee.

The substitute of Mr. BACON was again read.

Mr. BAKER, of Chicago: I would like to ask Mr. BACON by what authority he states that the present means at the command of this department are insufficient. I have lately seen the statement made by the statistician at Washington that their machinery was absolutely perfect; that there is nothing more that can be done for it. They have their agencies, they have their representatives in almost every precinct in the United States. I do not know what an additional appropriation will do in that direction. I do not see what is the use of spending any more money on a system that is absolutely worthless and that we know is worthless.

Mr. GANO asks what we will do if we abolish this system; what substitute we will have. We do not want any substitute. It is like the fifth wheel of a coach. We are better without it.

The question was then taken on the substitute offered by Mr. BACON of Milwaukee, and it was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition V of the addenda, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to legalize the cental system for transactions in grain, seeds and kindred products, with a view to the introduction of this system in place of the bushel measure, and that the commercial organizations of the country be urged to adopt and to put into effect such system. Also, that in place of the present measure by gallon for liquids, such as oils, spirits, syrups, etc., a system of weights be similarly authorized and adopted.

The PRESIDENT: In connection with this proposition, I have received from the New York Retail Grocers' Union, a letter which the Secretary will read.

The SECRETARY read as follows:

NEW YORK, Nov. 13, 1888.

NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE, Chicago, Ill.,

GENTLEMEN:—At last night's meeting of this Union it was reported that your honorable body would meet on November 14, for the purpose of adopting the decimal standard for the sale of produce, etc., and in view of the fact that no specific standard exists for the sale of fruits and vegetables, I am directed to request you to kindly take these also into consideration, so that, should you regard it as practicable, they might also be sold by this standard.

Hoping you will give this your thoughtful consideration, I remain,

Yours truly,

WILLIAM H. STEINKAMP,  
*Secretary.*

Mr. MURRAY, of Cincinnati: I move the adoption of the proposition.

The proposition was unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I will take this opportunity of announcing to the Board that at the meeting of the Executive Council held last evening, Mr. HAMILTON A. HILL was unanimously re-elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Board. (Applause.) The Executive Council also, in view of what may grow out of the proceedings of this meeting, demanding a larger expenditure than we have been permitted to make, decided to continue the annual assessment upon the delegates at \$20 each. The result of our operations for the past year left a balance in the Treasury amounting to \$58 and a few cents.

The hour of 1 P.M. having arrived, the Board, in accordance with its orders, took a recess until 2.30 P.M., and then reassembled.

Mr. BLETHEN, of Minneapolis: Mr. President and Gentlemen, I ask unanimous consent for the suspension of Section 1, Article VI, of the Constitution, whereby this Board is required to meet in the city of Washington, and that the next annual meeting of the Board be determined by the Executive Council the same as last year.

There was no objection.

The PRESIDENT: The Executive Council will meet and take action in regard to the next meeting. We are now ready to proceed with the consideration of the next topic upon the programme.

The SECRETARY read Proposition IV of the addenda, submitted by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to so amend the law allowing non-residents to bring suits in the United States Courts as to permit suits to be brought where the amount of five hundred dollars and over is involved instead of two thousand dollars, as now.

Mr. LOCKE, of Wilmington, Del.: I move the adoption of the proposition.

The proposition was unanimously adopted.

The SECRETARY: The next proposition is not on the printed programme. It comes from the Milwaukee Merchants' Association, and was received too late to be printed with the other propositions. It is as follows:

Uniform laws for the collection of debts and for regulating the commercial transactions between citizens of different States.

Mr. MENDEL, of Milwaukee: Would it not expedite business if the following resolution offered by the Merchants' Association of Milwaukee in reference to bankruptcy legislation were considered at the same time with this. It is not on the printed programme.

The SECRETARY: The proposition is as follows:

*The passage of an equitable bankrupt law.*

Mr. MENDEL: I move that the two resolutions be debated and considered together, and I ask for a little time to put them in proper form.

The SECRETARY: I call the attention of the Board to Proposition VII, The Chesapeake & Delaware Ship Canal, which was continued from the programme of last year. It came from the Baltimore Board of Trade. No one is present from that Board to-day. It may be best to postpone that subject until the next meeting.

Mr. How, of Chicago: I move that the subject now under consideration be passed over temporarily for the purpose of offering a resolution to place the topic relative to the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, from the Baltimore Board of Trade, upon the programme for the next session of the Board.

The motion was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition VIII, Transportation, from the Portland, Oregon, Board of Trade, as follows:

*How shall we cheapen transportation?*

Mr. McCRAKEN, of Portland, Oregon: Mr. President, I have been very much pleased and edified by my attendance upon this meeting; but, at the same time, I must express my disappointment that California is not represented here to-day. California, with its varied products and many interests, it seems to me, should have a representative in this meeting. Our interests are somewhat identical, hence I had hoped for assistance from California. I find myself the only representative from a district west of the Rocky Mountains, comprising in territory nearly one million square miles, with a coast extending from the 23rd parallel to the 49th, and again from the 55th parallel, North latitude, to the Arctic Ocean, and I do not know but to the North Pole.

We in Portland feel that we have an interest in and are pleased to be associated with this Board, because, if our local Board, through the delegation or State, can assist in legislation in our behalf, certainly this Board that now, from what I have learned since I have been here, will soon have a constituency from every State in the Union, will have more influence by appealing to every member of Congress and every senator. We need Congressional assistance in this new and vast territory. We need the assistance of Government. We look to the Government and ask it for the improvement of our rivers and harbors. Referring more particularly to the State from which I come and to that country which is tributary to the Columbia River, I will say that the Columbia River drains a country equal in area to the whole of New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio; that that country is filling up rapidly; that it has a genial climate and rich soil, and is attracting the attention of emigrants from the older States. We need the assistance of the Government to cheapen the transportation of our products. Wheat being our principal cereal now finds its way to market around Cape Horn, a distance of 17,000 miles.

The question of how to cheapen transportation by rail is a question that perhaps you, gentlemen, in your better wisdom can elucidate. When we ship from Oregon and Washington Territory to Chicago and Milwaukee, it is a long haul over three ranges of mountains. We can hardly complain at present of the charges made by the railroad for this long haul on that route, or in fact upon any other route; but if our products can be shipped by sailing vessels and brought round within a reasonable time and by a reasonable distance it will be a bright day for our coast.

Gentlemen, in asking your assistance in the matter of the improvement of our natural highway, the Columbia River, which ranks third I believe in size of the rivers of the United States, we think you should not take a passive interest in this question. The development and improvement of that grand river is something in which you have an active interest. It means, as it is improved, the enlarged consumption of your manufactures, of your products. Thousands of carloads of meat go from Illinois, Iowa and Kansas and other meat packing centers to the Pacific Coast. You are aware that corn is not one of our products. Hence our farmers can sell their wheat to better advantage and purchase their meat

here. It means to the agricultural implement manufacturer an enlarged sale; and so through all the manufactures of iron and steel, cotton, wool, clothing, petroleum and a hundred other things it is unnecessary for me to name. The development and improvement of that country means an enlarged trade from this side of the Rocky Mountains.

I have prepared a resolution which I trust will meet with no objection, covering this point, one in which we are all so largely interested, namely, the improvement of the Columbia River. Let me say to you gentlemen, that the improvement of the river is going on at this time but very slowly. The Columbia River in 1841, was at its mouth more than two miles narrower than it is at this time. An Indian village existed in 1841, a mile and a half from the extreme point, and beyond that point the shore line ran, and then there was a sufficient depth of water at the mouth for almost any vessel's approach. Now it is the intention of the Government to restore that shore line, to build a jetty out nearly three miles from Point Adams, which is perfectly practicable, and in that way to secure to the mouth of that river thirty feet of water at low water. This jetty is formed by driving piles and filling in with rock, commencing across at the shore end. There are no teredo to attack the piles; while under water they will be as enduring as time, because of the fresh water of the Columbia, or for some other cause. We are fortunate in not being troubled with the teredo that are so troublesome both in Puget Sound and in San Francisco Harbor. Every rod of the work that has been done has given a greater depth of water in the Columbia River thus far, and we have now a sufficient depth for vessels drawing twenty-two feet of water to pass in and out at almost any tide; not at any stage of the tide, but at any tide. The improvement of the river has been going on as the Government has heretofore been doing such things, in a slow and sometimes unsatisfactory way, until vessels drawing twenty feet of water go to Portland and take in their cargoes. There is at present an appropriation of \$500,000 to be expended, which we hope, will extend that jetty out and we know will improve it. As I said, every rod that is built does improve the entrance to the Columbia River.

There is another feature about this work and that is, that wherever the current is stopped, the sand naturally banks up and protects the work that is done. A wharf was built out from Fort

Stevens. It was built out four hundred feet, and in less than a year the sand had so banked up about it that it was dry at low tide at the end of the wharf. The Government extended the wharf four hundred feet more to deep water, and in another year that was rendered useless, and so they have extended it twelve hundred feet. I simply mention this to show that the work that is done is permanent. It is no waste of money. It is not a work that will have to be done again. The improvement of the river has been going on slowly, so that now vessels drawing twenty feet of water come up to Portland. But the Government appropriations are uncertain. Sometimes they are so meagre as to be almost valueless. I have in mind an instance where the improvement of the locks was undertaken at the Cascades, where the Government is now constructing a channel. They appropriated \$50,000 one year and \$40,000 of that \$50,000 was used to protect the work that had been already done by banking up, and which subsequently had to be taken away; \$40,000 of that \$50,000 was worse than useless; whereas if the Government had appropriated \$250,000 or \$500,000 as it should have done, the progress of the work would have been all the protection needed. That is the way the Government has made its appropriations oftentimes in our country. The appropriations for the river have been such that instead of the engineers being able to make a direct channel from point to point parallel with the current, in order to make it available they have had to make it at an angle with the current, in order to get the nearest point from deep water on one side to deep water on the other. The consequence has been that the channel has again filled up.

What I propose to offer is as follows :

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to continue to make, from time to time, ample appropriations for the judicious improvement of all its principal rivers, harbors and waterways, and especially that important works of improvement already begun may not be stopped for want of necessary funds for their continuance and completion, thereby incurring waste, damage, and ultimate increased cost of the work and unnecessary delay in making such improvements available.

I have made the resolution general rather than applicable solely to our own case; because, as I thought the Baltimore resolution with regard to the Chesapeake & Delaware Ship Canal might be

brought up, and I desired to join hands with any delegation or any gentleman representing interests of that kind.

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. President, I suggest to the gentleman the propriety of making his recommendation apply only to the Columbia River, if that is what he means.

Mr. McCRAKEN: I should be very glad to do so.

Mr. STRANAHAN: We shall then know specifically what we are voting for or against. Personally, I am decidedly in favor of the improvement of the Columbia River and especially its mouth, and I would like to know exactly what I am voting for.

Mr. COLEMAN, of New Orleans: Mr. President, I should much prefer to have the gentleman leave the resolution as he read it. Believing in the improvement of the Mississippi, and being able to testify to the fact that large sums of money have been spent by the Government to do a certain amount of work, and for the reason that the appropriation was not sufficient, all the good done has been swept away, sometimes in one season, I believe the resolution the gentleman has offered will command more support than if he particularizes. I am candid enough to tell you that, as a Louisianian and a representative from New Orleans, if I find that any good can be gained by a gentleman from Oregon specifying any particular thing for himself, I propose to put in a plea for New Orleans, or for the Mississippi River. Therefore, to avoid a multiplicity of measures, I would prefer to vote for a general resolution.

Mr. HOLLOWAY, of Cincinnati: I concur with the remarks of the gentleman from Louisiana. I do not think this Board, whose purpose it is to pass upon matters relating to the nation, can afford to make a recommendation for any particular river. All of our navigable waters more or less need the support and appropriation of the public funds. Especially so the Mississippi River, the Ohio River and many others of the inland waters of the country. The Government should be memorialized to appropriate money to improve these waters and for the betterment of all the inland, navigable waters. Parallel lines of railroad will not make low rates for the movement of crops and the produce of the country



unless our waterways are improved. Our waterways are the best regulators to cheapen transportation that we can find in the western country. I hope the motion of the gentleman from New York will not prevail, asking special legislation for any particular river. I am in favor of deepening our harbors, improving our waterways and guarding jealously all the inland navigation of the country.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, two years ago, this question was fully discussed in our Board, and it was decided then that it was unwise to recommend appropriations for any particular work. It was said if we undertake to do that and open the doors for that kind of business, the entire time of the Board will be taken up listening to the merits of various enterprises. This is unquestionably true. The Columbia is a great enterprise: I have sailed up the river and down again; I investigated the Government works to some extent. I had a letter of introduction to the engineers in charge, and they took a great deal of pains to show me the works and I was very greatly interested in them. They are exceedingly important. It is a majestic, noble river and has almost the grandest scenery upon earth. It is capable of bearing upon its bosom, with the improvements which have been suggested, a magnificent commerce. Yet I am opposed to any special recommendation in regard to it. The resolution as presented I am in favor of. I am in favor of a general resolution, advocating liberal appropriations for every public work of this nature. I believe that is an excellent way to get rid of the surplus that has been talked about so much of late. I believe it will bring one hundred per cent. back to the Government and to the people, in a short time. I am heartily glad that an opportunity to vote for the resolution is offered. But the moment we open the doors to recommendations for river and harbor improvements specifically, the time of the association will be all taken up and we can do no other business. (Applause.)

Mr. GAIENNIE, of St. Louis: Mr. President, I shall speak to the question as first propounded, How to cheapen transportation? It does seem to me that, when you leave out the great highway, the Mississippi, and its principal tributary, whose improvement the whole people of this country demand, you practically do away with that great regulator, that, even if there was not a single

boat on it, would hold in check and make stable the freight rates to the seaboard.

While I would be the last man in the world to take anything away from the grand possibilities of Oregon and elsewhere, we have here in the great Mississippi Valley that produces three-quarters of the products of this country, the need of governmental help also. The center of the country, to-day, is right round that valley, producing as it does, the greatest amount of grain, pork, cattle, cotton and tobacco of this great country, holding, as I really believe, within its bounds, in its domestic commerce, twelve to fifteen times the entire foreign trade of this whole United States. I say, Mr. President, that the improvement of the Mississippi River, maintained by the General Government, should be carefully looked after. We have travelled all along that river in the interests of cheaper transportation. I fully agree with the gentleman in taking in every navigable river in this great country. I believe it is proper that this National Board of Trade should have its attention turned to the fact that money spent in the navigation of our rivers is almost wiped away by the legalized obstruction of the river in the way of bridges which destroy its navigation and make the money useless that is expended. Only the other day, it was said these bridges could be thrown across our rivers, although not to their detriment; and I am told that the bridge now being constructed at Cairo forces the breakage of bulk in the tows going down the Ohio river to the loss of a day and to the increase of freight rates and insurance \$500 a day. That is added to the freight of these commodities that have to be transported over our waterways; waterways and highways placed there by the Creator for the use of man are actually being destroyed by the legalized act of these railroad companies in throwing bridges across the stream. I think this National Board of Trade should take steps to prevent such conduct. I would ask the gentleman to add to his resolution, not only that the improvement should be made, but that these bridges shall not be placed as obstructions and so defeat the purposes for which the rivers were created. We have been fighting all along for this method of transportation. It is an unmonopolized way to the sea. The man with his unpretentious flatboat can float side by side unmolested to the sea with the occupant of the palatial steamer. We want the river to go, in the language of Mr. LINCOLN, "unvexed to the sea," by these

bridges or any other obstructions that may be placed in their course contrary to the interests of the people of these great valleys. It is well to consider, in discussing these questions, that this great Mississippi Valley possesses forty-eight per cent. of the electoral vote, and with its commercial supremacy it cannot be long before it will have a little to say in the political management of this country. We say in all kindness, but we say in all firmness that we must have recognition. I am glad to see appropriations made for rivers and harbors on the eastern coast. I have no objection to the grants of land that have been made to the railroads for construction purposes; the large grants to the trans-continental railroads. I like to see every one of them encouraged; but I do believe that if we confine ourselves to a single method of transportation we will see the day when we will rue it. I would rather have the water and the rail running side by side together, and I am the last man in the world to overlook the great civilizing force the railroads have exerted in bringing together the land-locked countries. I am sure, if we continue appropriations for the Mississippi River, we will keep transportation properly in check and it will redound to the prosperity and the happiness of the people of this whole country. (Applause.)

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. President, the old members of this Board will bear me witness that I have always been in favor of the improvement of the navigable waters of the country. I now feel as heretofore that the Government ought to improve, not only the Columbia, but the Mississippi with its tributaries. I made my suggestion simply as a practical matter. Now, if the gentleman will introduce a general proposition not coupled with the Columbia or with the Mississippi specifically, I will gladly vote for it.

Mr. McLAREN, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, the speech of the gentleman from Oregon is a matter of record. It does not bind the National Board of Trade. The resolution adopted will bind us. I should be very glad to vote for this resolution. I certainly could not vote for a resolution designating the Columbia River or any other one project. Those members who have been at previous meetings of the National Board know fully the history of the Board upon this question; but as there are many here who have

not been often at our meetings I would briefly state that the Board in its twenty years of existence has rigidly held, with one exception I believe—I think three years ago the National Board did endorse the improvement of the Columbia River specifically—with that exception it has held to what I deem to be a very wise and conservative position, that it would not endorse specific public improvements. I think that is one of the best things the Board has ever done; taking and holding firmly to that position. I think it would break into our usefulness or efficiency very much if we should undertake to endorse a number of specific works of improvement in different parts of the country. I think if you introduce, as my esteemed friend from New York suggests, a resolution for the improvement of the Columbia River, I would introduce a resolution that the Government be memorialized to build a new post office in Milwaukee, and go on to show you how much we need it; that the Government is paying rent for more square feet of space outside of the post office than we have in it; and I would tell you how everybody writes to Milwaukee and receives letters from there, so it is not a matter of local interest, but a matter of national interest. I would ask you also Mr. President to pass a resolution giving Milwaukee back the money that was paid to make our harbor; paid out of our own pockets. We went in debt and staid in debt and struggled and economized until we could pay it up and we did pay it up. We never got it back. Your vessels are going out and in, using that harbor to-day. Commerce is being carried on through it. In equity we ought to have it and I should like if you are going to adopt this policy, to have a memorial passed that we should have it. The history of the first meeting—the conception meeting as I call it—not when the National Board of Trade was born, but when it was conceived at Detroit, illustrates that. I believe I referred to that two years ago. We had a committee on transportation there, a committee of fifteen. We had the Niagara ship canal which we almost all favored and were ready to endorse. We could have got the convention to endorse it undoubtedly. But when that question came up, up came the Mississippi River and the Ohio River and the Fox River of Wisconsin and the Hennepin Canal in Illinois, and the Kanawha Canal, and twenty-five or thirty other subjects. Everyone of them demanded recognition and endorsement. We found ourselves after two days of worrying in such a position that

we could not get any one thing through unless we got them all through. We then agreed upon a general proposition, and I believe that was the beginning of the wise principle on which the Board has acted with the one exception I have named ever since. I hope it will continue to occupy that position. I should be very glad to vote for the general resolution the gentleman from Oregon has offered. It is somewhat similar to the one adopted I think a year ago. If there is any specific recommendation of any particular locality I shall certainly have to oppose it.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: The question is, how shall we cheapen transportation. As a matter of curiosity let me take some railroad reports to show how much transportation has been cheapened already. I first refer to the average rate per ton per mile received by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road in 1865. It was 4.11 per ton per mile. In 1866 it dropped to 3.76. In 1868 it dropped to 3.49. In 1870 it was 2.82. In 1871 it was 2.54. In 1872 it was 2.47. I think at the present time it is down to 1.09. From 4.11 it has gone down to 1.09. This is a remarkable reduction already made in transportation. I believe the railroads in this country now carry very much cheaper than they do in the old country. You can ship freight from here to Liverpool which has to go two and three hundred miles in Great Britain and it costs almost as much to take it those two or three hundred miles as it does from Chicago and Milwaukee to Liverpool. So we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon the immense reduction which has already been had in transportation. I noticed the other day in a report of the British Association that the President in making his opening address called attention to the immense ocean steamers that now go between Liverpool and New York. Take the City of New York or the Etruria. If one of those great ocean steamers were propelled by oars like the ancient Roman boats, counting six men to one horse power, it would take one hundred and seventeen thousand men to propel the City of New York; and inasmuch as they would have to be relieved and could not work all the time it would take another one hundred and seventeen thousand men to relieve the first set; so that it would take two hundred and thirty-four thousand men to propel the City of New York from New York to Liverpool, without figuring on the immense quantity of provisions they would

require. So we can see what wonderful progress we are making in transportation, especially from what we had within a very few years ago when the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad was an infant. We should not be too hard on the railroads, after they have made these reductions, which are so beneficial to the farmers and merchants.

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. President I want to say one word in justification of myself. I suppose my friend from Oregon meant to get the endorsement of this Board for his specific object, and to get the vote of the Board by his general resolution. I imagine I was mistaken. I will so consider it, and vote for his general resolution, as I have just read it, with a great deal of pleasure.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. MENDEL, of Milwaukee: I offer the following resolution:

The National Board recommends that Congress enact uniform laws for the collection of debts and for regulating commercial transactions between citizens of the different States, and also that it enact an equitable bankrupt law.

In moving the adoption of this resolution, Mr. President, I do not wish to occupy the time of the Board unnecessarily, as I am quite sure every member present, (even those who attend this Board for the first time) is conversant with the nature of the subject. I believe during the last three or four sessions of the Board, resolutions of a similar nature introduced by different Chambers of Commerce and mercantile associations were almost unanimously adopted. I remember very well that at the last meeting in Washington the honorable gentleman from Cincinnati reviewed the question from a commercial standpoint, while a legal gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. WAGNER, gave us exhaustive information on the subject from a legal standpoint, and the resolution was passed without further argument. Anything I might say at this moment in support of the resolution would perhaps be out of place, were it not for the fact, that there seems to me to be something to be remedied, that such action should be taken in the Board every year and yet we do not feel the effects of it. I do not see that there has been any legislation. I remember that

years ago a bankruptcy act which went under the name of the Lowell Act was drafted and redrafted, amended and reamended, but I do not believe it was ever introduced in Congress.

**Mr. JANNEY, of Philadelphia :** It twice passed the Senate.

**Mr. MENDEL :** It never became a law at least. There must be something wrong in our manner of treating the subjects which we pass upon here, in view of the way in which they are received by the legislative power of the country. There must be something at fault. What is it? Yesterday and to-day, I have heard arguments which tend to open new avenues for making money; for using the machinery of the Government altogether for the purpose of accumulating wealth; but, it seems to me, after we have made the money, there is very little done to keep it. In one word, my opinion is that the judiciary of our country needs a little more attention from commercial bodies than it has received so far. We may pass this resolution; we may have it advertised in the newspapers and some of our Congressmen may get hold of it, and they may say, "This is all very well;" but what will they do? Perhaps there are some here who have not given this matter as serious thought as I have. To my regret I must say I have had some experience which has made me a constant and studious laborer in trying to get legislation which will help us in this matter. I would like to cite to you an illustration. An illustration is the best way of presenting the matter. I will mention a case which has come under my experience and will show to you, perhaps, better than anything else why we ought to have bankruptcy legislation, or rather, why the National Government should undertake to distribute the assets of a bankrupt. Six years ago, in 1882, a concern in the upper part of Michigan, failed in business. A year before that time they had ample capital to start their business, but by riotous living, gambling and other things, they squandered a great deal of their capital, and, as I said, in 1882, failed.

A receiver was appointed to take charge of the stock of merchandise and the outstanding business, as there was no other mode of winding up the affairs of the concern. The receiver sold the stock within the three months from the time he took possession of it. He went about collecting the debts, but he could not

collect a great deal. The firm had been reckless in making credits. He immediately notified the Court, which was then the United States Court at Marquette, that there was sufficient funds in his hand to divide among the creditors, or those who had proved their claims, but there was a claim on the part of a relative of one of the partners, who said he had advanced five or six thousand dollars and that he had a chattel mortgage on the stock which he did not put on record for fear it would injure the credit of that concern. The creditors refused to allow this and the consequence was that he sued the receiver. It took one year's time before the Court to try the case and the receiver won the case at a cost of \$1,500. I forgot to mention to you that at the time the receiver wound up the concern and sold the stock there was sixty cents on the dollar for each creditor in his possession. After the year had elapsed and the decision came in favor of the receiver, the Court ordered the receiver to dispose of the money in the lawful way; to distribute it equally *pro rata* among the creditors; but it was found to the surprise of all that the receiver had deposited the money in a banking institution which had in the meantime collapsed. Sixty cents on the dollar of the money belonging to the creditors had been deposited in a banking institution which had gone under! But he said, "not everything is lost. We have received security in the shape of mining shares and we hold them, and at some future time the mining shares will be worth a great deal of money." Two years elapsed and the creditors — I am sorry to say a great many of your leading houses in Chicago were among the creditors — tried in vain to get a settlement of the affair. To make my story short, the money is not distributed to-day for the simple reason that it is not there. The receiver cannot get it. The mine is there, but the mine is not developed sufficiently to pay the creditors. I should think an illustration of this kind ought to satisfy almost any one and make him an ardent supporter of a national bankruptcy act.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President and gentlemen, a great effort has been made by this body and by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation and the New York Chamber of Commerce and various other bodies to secure legislation on this question. I remember with great distinctness when



our venerable President and nineteen Vice-Presidents went before the Judiciary Committee on this question, and our President made an able and forcible speech, while the nineteen others talked to those thirteen lawyers for two hours and a half to try to impress upon them the importance of this matter. No doubt there are several gentlemen present who were there. I have been a delegate from the New York Board of Trade and Transportation and received promise after promise. I will tell you in one word the reason why we have not got any legislation. Both parties have been playing politics and have not been paying the slightest attention to the needs of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. GOODALE, of Cincinnati: Mr. President, I agree with the gentleman who has just sat down, for I was with the party that appeared before the Judiciary Committee. I rise to second the motion of Mr. MENDEL. We have over one million traders in the United States and they are increasing rapidly every year. Every one of those men deals in credits. There are hardly two States in the Union whose exemption laws are the same, or whose legal instruments for the transfer of property are the same. The first step in the direction of a uniform system of commercial intercourse was the Inter-State Commerce Bill. There has been, as nearly every one will remember, more or less delicacy about the treatment of that subject, as Mr. SMITH states very pertinently, because the representatives were afraid of their constituents. They were afraid the Kentucky constituents would criticise the representatives from Kentucky, because Ohio or Indiana had been treated in a certain manner which would enable them to go over to their territory and collect their claims on the same basis that they could in Ohio or Indiana. But when Congress enacted a law which should regulate commerce, it opened the door and let down the bars for men who are dealing in New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, or San Francisco, to do business upon the same grounds in Indiana, or in New Orleans, or in Oregon. The time has come when the credit clerk in New York or San Francisco must put all upon the same basis, and when a man comes from New Orleans or from Oregon and asks for credit, it should be known in the counting room in New York or Cincinnati or Chicago just upon what hypothesis he asks credit; not that the exemption in the State of Missouri may mean a farm and all there

is on it, or in Minnesota the man's dwelling and all he possesses amounting to forty odd thousand dollars, or in Kentucky, where he can own a stud horse worth \$10,000 and be exempt, or in Ohio where it is \$500. The instruments used for commercial intercourse vary the same way and the time has come, as Mr. WAGNER very pertinently stated in Washington last year, when we need some uniform system of commercial intercourse; some uniform system of legal instruments. Nearly every one who has had experience under the old bankrupt law, I know will say we do not want any more such bankrupt laws as we have had. I have had some experience and I believe under that bankrupt law I never had but one case where I got the first fees back, the \$2 required to swear to the claim. In time of peace let us prepare for war. While we have the bitter experience of the old bankrupt law, let us prepare for the future, because the time will come when we will need something of the kind. We need it to-day. We have already passed a resolution looking to the trial of cases in United States Courts for sums of money exceeding \$500 instead of \$2,000. Why did we do that? Because the machinery of the United States Courts, when properly handled, is more simple than the machinery of many other courts, and the lawyer in New York knows exactly what he has to do to collect his claim in the United States Court in Kentucky; while the lawyer in Cincinnati, on the opposite side of the river from Kentucky, does not know how to collect his claim in Kentucky and get the money, unless he has been over in Kentucky and had some bitter experience. So we should go on, as we are a trading community. As I said before, there are over a million traders in the United States, every one of them asking credit and every one of them giving credit. The time is coming when we must have some uniform system, and now is the time for us in this assembly to formulate a resolution, asking Congress to enact such a law. We may succeed. We have not succeeded yet in obtaining legislation regarding the central system. If you will remember, that subject has been passed upon here for four years, one after the other. But the time will come when Congress will recognize it. You will remember we worked a considerable length of time before we had the signal service. This National Board of Trade is the originator of the signal service. It required considerable agitation before we got to the point, but we kept agitating until we reached it.

Gentlemen, you and I are equally interested in having a uniform system of legal instruments, some uniform system of collecting claims, and some uniform system of adjusting the assets of bankrupts.

Mr. McLAREN, of Milwaukee: I desire to make a suggestion Mr. President, that possibly may lead us in the way of more practical work on this subject. At the meeting of the Bar Association at Saratoga about two months ago they discussed this subject very fully and the discussion resulted in the appointment of a committee to take some steps, I do not know exactly what was intended, to call the attention of the legislative department to the subject of uniform laws for the collection of debts. It might be a good plan for this Board to appoint a Committee to act with that Committee of the Bar Association, and working together they might be more effective than working separately.

Mr. GOODALE: If the gentleman will introduce that as a motion I will second it.

Mr. McLAREN: If the President will not feel compelled to put me on the Committee I would be glad to introduce such a motion: That a Committee of three be appointed to act with the Committee of the Bar Association to take steps to procure the legislation desired on that subject.

Mr. GOODALE: I heartily second that motion.

The PRESIDENT: Is that intended to be offered as an additional resolution?

Mr. MENDEL: I will accept that as an amendment.

Mr. ROBY, of Rochester: Mr. President, I do not know but that I may have very particular notions about this matter and possibly I may be subjected to ridicule. I approve of the plan of a uniform system of collecting debts throughout the country. That I think would be a good idea. But when a bankruptcy act is suggested, it strikes me it means something like providing a feather bed for debtors. It does not seem to me it is constitutional that the Government shall interfere between a debtor and a creditor. A law preventing preferences and assignments and things of that sort I would favor; but does it not appear that

when a bankruptcy law is passed you prepare a feather bed for dishonest debtors to drop into? A powerful Government seems to step in between the parties and says to the one "You must accept twenty-five cents on the dollar and release the debtor," or fifty cents, whatever it may be. I deprecate the passage of a bankrupt law.

Mr. PRICE, of Scranton: A Committee has been already appointed by the Bar Association which has been considering this matter, in fact both Bar Associations, the National and the American. It might be well before taking action upon the subject to hear the report of the Committee on the credit system. The Committee is ready to report.

Mr. LEE, of St. Louis: I would like to know precisely how this matter stands. A resolution was introduced by the gentleman from Milwaukee which in effect memorialized Congress as I understood it, for the adoption of a national bankruptcy act, and also recommended to Congress the propriety of taking such action as should look to a uniform system of laws for the collection of debts. Then I understood the gentleman from Milwaukee (Mr. McLAREN) as moving an amendment to that resolution to the effect that a Committee be appointed to confer with the National Bar Association, looking to uniting with it to carry out the objects and purposes of this resolution. Is that correct? I am somewhat familiar with the action taken by the National Bar Association upon the subject of adopting uniform laws for the collection of debts, but I do not think it has ever been the idea of the National Bar Association that Congress had any jurisdiction over that matter. Their purpose and plan always have been to work out a system of uniform laws in the different States for the collection of debts through State legislation. Undoubtedly Congress has the power to pass a national bankrupt act. That power is given to Congress by the Constitution. But the Congress of the United States has no power to enact legislation providing a uniform system of laws for the collection of debts in the various States. You have got to work that out through the State legislatures. You cannot work it out through Congress. Hence it seems to me this resolution is asking Congress to do something which it has no jurisdiction or power to do. Part of the resolution is clearly

within the jurisdiction of Congress, but the other part is not. I think it would be well to appoint a Committee to confer with the National Bar Association upon the propriety of urging Congress to pass a national bankruptcy act and also for the purpose of setting on foot measures looking to a uniform system of laws through the legislatures of the various States.

Mr. MENDEL, of Milwaukee: The Secretary calls my attention to a paragraph in the resolution which, if removed, would meet the views of the gentleman from St. Louis. Strike out the words "uniform laws for the collection of debts" and the resolution will then read:

The National Board of Trade recommends that Congress enact laws regulating commercial transactions between citizens of different States, and also that it enact an equitable bankrupt law.

Now as to the objections of the gentleman from St. Louis. The amendment was offered by my worthy colleague, Mr. McLAREN, and he can explain for what reason he offered it. I think the amendment does not interfere with the resolution, as it leaves the labor of working out something which can be properly brought before the respective bodies, whether State legislatures or the National Congress. It simply in my opinion leaves the work of saying what ought to be done to that Committee, and does not shelve it. That is the way I understand it.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: I think Congress might do a good deal, even regarding the uniformity of laws. In some States for instance, there are three days of grace on sight paper, and in other States sight paper is the same as demand. I am not a lawyer and I do not know much about the law, but I think if a draft were drawn in New York City payable in Wisconsin at sight, that being interstate commerce, Congress could pass a law that such paper should have no grace. At any rate it seems to me the interstate commerce law did a good many things that at one time we thought Congress could hardly do. I think if Congress really intended to do anything or tried very hard, it would find some way by which the commercial laws of the various States could be brought much nearer together than they are now. In Wisconsin for instance there is no such thing as a preference

of creditors. In Illinois there is. In Illinois I believe if you do not commence a suit against an indorser within sixty days after the paper is protested, the indorser is released. It is the worst muddle possible for an intelligent civilized people to be in,—thirty-six different laws for the collection of debts.

Mr. GOODALE, of Cincinnati: Mr. President, at the risk of taking up time, let me intimate at the beginning that if Congress had a right to pass an interstate commerce bill it has the right to go considerable further than it has already gone in the way of making an equitable system of collection laws. As the gentleman who has just sat down illustrates, no man in New York is competent to judge of credits in the other States. All of us do business for the purpose of making money. If Congress has a right to regulate commerce between two States in the way of railroad freight, who shall say it has not a right to regulate the matter of collection between two different States without interfering with State affairs? Now in regard to Mr. WAGNER's remarks last year. As I understood, it was the intention of the National Bar Association to direct its attention to the Governor of each State, in order that that official should see there was such communication to the legislature of the State as would look to a more uniform system; or in other words, that it would work in that direction. It occurs to me that a Committee can do a great deal in that direction, and that the National Board of Trade can throw its influence in the direction of some equitable system of bankruptcy legislation. We do not need it now, but we will some day. Now while we do not need it, let us prepare for the time when we will need it. The last act was enacted at a time when the country was crying for it and the result was one of the most scandalous systems I think ever perpetrated upon a commercial community. That was because it was enacted in a hurry and under pressure. If we can go to work now, we can prepare a measure which will be beneficial to all parties. I hope the gentleman from Rochester (Mr. ROBY) will favor an equitable bankrupt law and not go upon the hypothesis that we are advocating a system of brigandage. In that case he who advocates an exemption law would be going upon the same hypothesis. There is an equitable plan which should govern all mercantile transactions; whether it be twenty-five per cent. exemption or a fifty per cent. exemption, or what-

ever the exemption may be, there should be some uniform system, and the exemptions should not be widely different in one place from those of another. In other words, the exemption in Ohio should not be different from the exemption in Illinois and Indiana, as the States are similarly situated.

Mr. ROBY: I had no such idea as that. What I meant was that the transaction between the debtor and the creditor has taken place. It is an absolute transaction. It is one of the most surprising things to me that our wise forefathers should not have made a constitutional provision that would prevent such legislation. I cannot approve of it. If it was done, it does not seem to be right. What I contend is that with an honest debtor there can be a settlement with his creditors without the expensive interference of the Government. A bankruptcy law to my notion is a provision for the dishonest debtor who wants to escape paying his debts, and it enables him to get out with the least possible expenditure for that purpose.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo: Mr. President, I am most heartily in favor of the resolution as offered. In my experience the recent bankruptcy law was a most unfortunate one; but the present feeling and experience of the nation in relation to a bankruptcy law cannot fail to result in adopting a wise measure. A bankruptcy law in my judgment should be made to relieve honest men, men who have striven faithfully to do what was right, men who wished to take no advantage of others and to have no advantage taken of them. A uniform bankruptcy law will have a beneficial influence upon those who are worthy. I am in favor of the resolution and will vote for its adoption.

Mr. LEE, of St. Louis: I would suggest the propriety of dividing this resolution into two parts. If this body desires to express itself upon the question whether or not it would be expedient to urge Congress to pass a uniform system of bankruptcy legislation throughout the United States, undoubtedly it would have a perfect right to do so, and it would bring before Congress something Congress has the power to act upon. But when you ask Congress to adopt a uniform system of laws throughout the United States, you are asking Congress something that Congress has no power to do. I would suggest that the

motion made by the gentleman from Milwaukee, Mr. McLAREN, looking to a reference to a Committee to unite with the Committee from the National Bar Association, would be very proper indeed. That Committee undoubtedly would be very happy to join with a Committee from this body to take steps looking to a uniform system of laws, through the legislatures of the different States. There is no one subject that comes before this body or can come before it that is more important to the merchants and business men of this country to-day, than that we should have a uniform system of laws with regard to the collection of debts throughout the country. It has been well said that as the matter now stands, creditors sending their goods all over the country do not know beforehand what the exemption laws are and do not know what to do with their commercial paper when it matures, if it is not paid; and they have no ready means of finding out. It is very important for the business interests of this country that a uniform system of laws should prevail throughout the various States of the Union, and it can only be done in the way suggested, as the gentleman states, by Mr. WAGNER, and that is through co-operation of the governors of the different States requesting them to bring before the legislative body of the different States this matter and urge it upon their consideration, and that uniform laws shall be adopted for the collection of debts, so that merchants may know what their rights are all over the country. I would suggest that you divide this resolution and put the question whether or not we shall recommend to Congress to pass a uniform system of bankruptcy; and if the Board is in favor of that, let us say so, and if not, vote it down; and then vote for the appointment of a committee from this Board to confer with a committee of the National Bar Association with reference to bringing about the other result in the manner I have suggested.

Mr. MENDELL: Certainly I have no objections at all to the adoption of the resolution as the gentleman from St. Louis desires; but as I have mentioned before, the whole matter in my opinion should go to a joint committee of this Board and of the Bar Association, and it will be left to those gentlemen to cull out the part that belongs to Congress and the part that belongs to the legislatures of the States and distribute the work accordingly.

Mr. LEE: Very well. That will be satisfactory.



Mr. GUTHRIE. I call for the reading of the resolution under consideration.

The SECRETARY: The resolution as I understand it, as modified by Mr. MENDELL, is as follows:

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommend the enactment by Congress of laws regulating commercial transactions between the different States, and also the enactment of an equitable bankrupt law.

Mr. GALT, of Louisville: It seems to me that the gentleman from St. Louis makes a good point in regard to the division of this question; that while you might have an interstate collection law, provided it is in the province of Congress to pass it, that is made for the benefit of the creditors, as I understand the bankruptcy law it is made for the benefit of the debtors. It seems to me this question ought to be divided in such way that action may be taken upon the separate question, first, as to having uniform collection laws and afterwards as to the enactment of a bankruptcy law.

The PRESIDENT: The first resolution is susceptible of division, and as the division is asked for I will take the question upon so much of the resolution as provides for the enactment by Congress of laws regulating the commercial transactions between different States.

The SECRETARY: So much of the resolution is as follows:

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends the enactment by Congress of laws regulating commercial transactions between the different States.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I suggest that we strike out the words "by Congress."

Mr. LEE: Would it not be better to make the resolution in this form:

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade appoint a committee of five members to confer with the committee of the National Bar Association for the purpose of devising ways and means to bring about a uniform system of laws for the collection of debts in the various States of the Union.

That is what you want to accomplish, and you will not be memorializing Congress, because Congress has no power to act.

All you can do here is to appoint a committee to confer with the other committee and have a uniform system of laws adopted in the various States of the Union for the purpose of collecting debts. The other matter comes properly before Congress.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: Mr. President, I had already prepared a paper which in a large degree covers this ground. I was prompted to do it by two or three circumstances. We have had this question before us, originating, I think, in the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, several times. We had satisfactory action on it last year, but the very appropriate reference to the subject in the President's address, and the letter which I have received since arriving here from one of the Committee of the American Bar Association in reference to this matter, prompts me now to ask that we have this subject continued upon the programme. I will read a resolution which I have prepared in reference to it. It simply covers the ground we have gone over before, but it is for the purpose of keeping it alive and letting more work be done:

*Resolved*, That the question of the diversity of the laws of the various States of the Union in reference to charters of corporations, the collection of debts, the forms and certification of deeds and other important papers relative to conveyances and contracts, the regulation of insurance and kindred matters, be continued on the programme of the National Board of Trade and that a committee of five delegates be appointed by the President to take the subject under consideration and report at the next meeting of the Board.

It was my purpose to ask, inasmuch as this was not before us, for unanimous consent to have the resolution put at the foot of the calendar to be acted upon after the regular programme has been passed through. If it is in order I will offer it as a substitute for the first provision. It covers the ground. I would like to have the privilege of reading a letter I have received from Mr. WAGNER of Philadelphia, who is one of the committee of the American Bar Association, in reference to this subject. To meet the point of the gentleman from St. Louis, I have this to say: that the gentlemen in the Bar Association had not got beyond this point; that they could not interfere with the laws of the States by national action, but they could regulate the question of exchanges between different States, and it was expected and hoped that a very large part of the commercial transactions of the country referring to

the collection of debts in the different States could be conducted by a system of exchanges which would bring the matter under the power of the national legislature. A pet theory of myself with regard to the matter was that possibly we could procure co-operative legislation in the different States of the Union with reference to this subject. There is nothing more ridiculous than that a people so homogeneous as ourselves, a people having large transactions over a large domain, larger than that of any other people speaking one language, in the world, should be hampered in their commercial intercourse by laws widely differing in different States. If we have not the power to regulate this matter either by the legislatures of the States or by the legislation of Congress, we must amend the Constitution so as to make it possible, for it is an absolute necessity in the matter of our commercial intercourse, that some plan should be devised to cheapen to us the expense of the collection of debts and make uniform the laws of the various States. There is nothing to my mind more important. How ridiculous it is that we can hardly collect a debt from a delinquent debtor in one State without employing a lawyer and going through a legal process that is entirely different from any process with which we are familiar.

If the Board will indulge me I will read a part of Mr. WAGNER's letter :

PHILADELPHIA, 12th November, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR :—

\* \* \* \* \*

Fortunately, Mr. C. C. BONNEY, one of the most active members of our Committee, and the one to whom we are indebted for the best of the work thus far done, lives in Chicago, and I have written to him by the same mail asking him to place himself in communication with you at once. His office is at 175 Dearborn Street.

Owing to Mr. BONNEY's absence, the death of JOSEPH BRADLEY, of Providence, and other active members of our Association who had promised to support the measure, we deemed it advisable not to press our report for action at the meeting of our Bar Association last August ; and after conference with Mr. RUFUS KING, of your city, in whose good judgment I had great confidence, it was decided to let the matter go over until next year, and a resolution offered by Mr. KING to that effect was adopted. We feel very confident that next summer, when we are to meet at Chicago, we shall be able to have our report intelligently discussed and our conclusions accepted by the Association. Mr. J. RANDOLPH TUCKER, of

Virginia, read a very able paper upon the power of Congress over commerce, and took strong ground in favor of legislation by Congress as to commercial paper, etc. This paper was referred to our Committee, and, as most of the opponents of our report were men from the South, we felt that our position would be stronger a year later, after Mr. TUCKER's paper should have been printed and read, and after we should have been able to supplement our report with references to that and other data relating to the subject.

While, therefore, we have delayed action, I do not think we have lost any ground. I took occasion to confer personally with many of the most able and influential of our members, and they were very much impressed with the force and value of the resolutions of your National Board of Trade at your last meeting.

If you can see your way to keep the subject before them at your present meeting and to emphasize the action you have already taken by further resolutions on one or both branches of the subject, it will, I am sure, very much assist the cause. As to the form such resolutions should take, the judgment of Mr. BONNEY, who is on the spot and who is thoroughly conversant with the subject, would be very much better than mine. A resolution *urging* the importance of the subject, and *requesting* your executive council to confer with other bodies, would probably cover the ground.

I trust you will have a pleasant meeting, and I wish I could be with you to enjoy a repetition of the agreeable experiences of last January at Washington.

I am, with great respect,

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL WAGNER.

JOHN A. GANO, Esq.

I think my resolution will be a little more complete if I add that this Committee be authorized to communicate with the Committee of the American Bar Association. Consequently I offer that as a substitute for a part of the proposition offered by the gentleman from Milwaukee, so that the subject may be before us and the Committee may be appointed by the President to take such action as may be suggested.

The PRESIDENT: The question is upon the substitute for the pending resolution, which substitute is offered by Mr. GANO, of Cincinnati.

Mr. GANO: I would add to my resolution that the Committee be directed and empowered to confer with the American Bar Association.

Mr. MENDEL: I understand this is a substitute for the first part of the resolution?

The PRESIDENT: Yes.

Mr. LEE: I would suggest whether it would not be well also to add the other Bar Association. There are two Bar Associations, the American and the National.

Mr. GANO: I have no objection to that.

The substitute offered by Mr. GANO was unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: Now the question is upon the part of Mr. MENDEL's proposition, which the Secretary will read.

The SECRETARY read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends the enactment by Congress of an equitable Bankrupt Law.

The proposition was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. STRANAHAN, and in view of the condition of the business of the Board, it was ordered that the present session continue until 6 P. M. instead of 5 P. M., as previously ordered.

The SECRETARY: We now return to proposition VI, the credit system, from the Scranton Board of Trade.

Mr. PRICE: Mr. President and gentlemen, while the matter of reports of Committees is under consideration will you allow me to make the report of the Committee on Representation. The Committee have already held one session.

The PRESIDENT: Shall the gentleman have leave at this time to make a report from the Committee on Representation?

There was no objection and leave was accordingly given.

**Mr. PRICE :** The Committee held a session to-day at noon, and heard a representative from St. Louis upon the subject of the re-organization, or the extension of the organization of the Board. As a result of that meeting the Committee desire to report progress simply, and promise a more extended report later in this session. They also at this time would ask to report a recommendation for the permanency of the Committee, from the fact that it will be impossible to formulate any adequate work during this session of the National Board. They also ask that Mr. HIGGINS, of New York, be added to the Committee.

**Mr. WALDO SMITH,** of New York: I move that the request of the Committee be granted.

**The PRESIDENT :** The question is as to making the Committee permanent, to continue until otherwise ordered by the Board.

The motion was agreed to.

**The PRESIDENT :** The Committee also asks that Mr. HIGGINS of New York be added to the Committee.

The request of the Committee was agreed to and Mr. HIGGINS was accordingly added.

**Mr. PRICE :** In reference to the proposition of the Scranton Board of Trade, I would say that at the present time the matter will come before you in the form of a report of the Committee appointed in January last. That Committee consisting of Mr. GANO of Cincinnati, Mr. POPE of Chicago, Mr. WIMAN of New York, and Mr. LANE of Boston, with myself as chairman, beg leave to report as follows :

**Mr. PRESIDENT :** Your Committee have to report a considerable amount of labor done with quite satisfactory results thus far. The gravity of the work has in every way discountenanced hasty action, and the time since January last has been all too limited for the most extended research and accomplishment, yet the progress made has been considerable and surprising.

The little opposition the work of the Committee has encountered and the evident sympathy that has been manifested, are quite encouraging. Opposition of all kinds has thus far been at a minimum and far below what might reasonably have been expected.

A large amount of correspondence in this country, as well as some from Europe, has assured the Committee of a wide general interest in the subject. From the correspondence we derive the conclusion, that there is an immense dissatisfaction, without definite knowledge of remedy, with the credit system as it exists to-day. Its abuses are generally considered to be increasing and threatening; its modification must sooner or later be insisted upon.

The National Bar Association at their Annual Meeting in Cleveland, August last, spent nearly their whole session in endeavoring to obtain uniformity in the forms of commercial paper, in the laws for the collection of debts and in the limitations of actions. The Committee on Uniformity of Laws after enumerating the conspicuous evils incident to the present law, advances to the front in a bold preliminary skirmish, preceding battle, when it says: "*If the field were entirely free*, a new law for the entire country could be framed with much less difficulty than under existing circumstances." It must be considered that the men who speak thus, are lawyers who rise high enough in their profession to be patriotic, while at the same time they could hardly propose a limitation upon their own business. It certainly indicates the dissatisfaction and the tendency of public thought which is recognized to be in existence at the present time.

As many, perhaps most, of the Boards of Trade of the country are aware, the main object laid out for accomplishment has been to obtain a knowledge of the situation more nearly than has heretofore been possible to obtain. We have census enumerations of public and incorporate indebtedness that are quite satisfactory, but of the real indebtedness of the people, we are in absolute ignorance. The States of Illinois and Michigan in connection with their labor bureaus have anticipated this necessity, this want, in a limited degree. The broad and comprehensive grasp however belongs to the general Government in its statistical functions,—hence to this end, attention has been largely directed as the arrangement for the 11th census is about to be made.

The Committee therefore made the request that a clause empowering the enumerators of the census of 1890, to collect all matters pertaining to recorded individual indebtedness, be inserted in the general Census Bill. Besides the request of the Committee it was recognized to be a matter of public interest as well as public demand and a way had to be formulated to obtain a prelim-

inary expression. Hence the Committee addressed itself to such individuals as might properly be regarded as possessed of qualities fitting them for maturest judgment in such matters.

The suggestion was laid before the House Representative Committee in Washington, of which the Hon. S. S. Cox, of New York is Chairman, and men like the Commissioner of Labor, Hon. Carroll D. Wright, were appealed to, for both judgment and participation in the request.

The following is a copy of an autograph letter that was sent each of the Chiefs of Labor Bureaus of the States, twenty-one in number, viz. : Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, New York, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Maryland, Kansas, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota, Colorado, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Nebraska : —

NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE,  
Committee on Credit System Correspondence.  
SCRANTON, Pa., April 6, 1888.

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner of Labor, etc.

MY DEAR SIR : — The Hon. S. S. Cox, of Washington, is preparing and will present a bill establishing the 11th Census.

A compilation of all debts of record other than, and in addition to, those of states and municipalities, seems to be demanded. If you can approve such a clause, will you write asking its insertion, and request your members of Congress and Senators to favor its adoption.

Such an item of information will be widely appreciated, and is becoming highly necessary to the stability of investments and commercial transactions.

Respectfully,  
J. A. PRICE,  
*Chairman.*

The communication was generally responded to, and the effort to have an individual indebtedness clause inserted, seemed to meet the approval of all, as it has had the individual efforts of nearly all, I believe. The following is taken from the proceedings of the 6th National Convention of the Bureaus of Statistics of Labor, held in Indianapolis, May 22 and 23, 1888.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted :

“ *Resolved*, That in the opinion of the members of the Convention of the “ Commissioners of Statistics, assembled at Indianapolis, May 22, 1888, the



“net mortgage indebtedness of the country should be included in the scope of the next National Census, such investigations including also judgments to secure which real estate has been attached.”

The clause asked to be inserted in the Census Bill of the House is herewith presented :

“ He shall also, at the time of the general enumeration therein provided for, or prior thereto, as the Secretary of the Interior may determine, collect the statistics of and relating to the recorded indebtedness of the people, and make report thereon to Congress ; but the amount expended for the collection of such statistics of indebtedness, shall not exceed the sum of \$250,000, which is hereby appropriated and shall be immediately available in addition to the \$6,000,000 appropriated in Sec. 20 of this Act.”

The clause was duly incorporated in the Census Bill by the House Committee and it came before the House July 12th, last, and upon one of those peculiar occasions when, as the vote was reached there were not thirty members voting, it was rejected, in reality for lack of information, and a failure to comprehend the importance of the request that had been made. The *Congressional Record* of July 12, or so much of it as pertains to the matter of the rejected clause, is herewith incorporated in the Committee's Report.

“ The next amendment of the committee was read, as follows :

After the word ‘ census ’ in line 30, insert the following :

‘ He shall also, at the time of the general enumeration herein provided for, or prior thereto, as the Secretary of the Interior may determine, collect the statistics of and relating to the recorded indebtedness of the people, and make report thereon to Congress ; but the amount expended for the collection of such statistics of indebtedness shall not exceed the sum of \$250,000, which sum is hereby appropriated, and shall be immediately available, in addition to the \$6,000,000 appropriated in section 20 of this act. The only volumes that shall be prepared and published in connection with said census shall relate to population and social statistics relating thereto, the products of manufactories, mining and agriculture, mortality and vital statistics, valuation and public indebtedness.’

Mr. GROSVENOR : Has the committee any definite understanding as to the meaning of the language ‘ recorded indebtedness of the people,’ as used in this amendment?

Mr. COX : It means all judgments, all mortgages (chattel mortgages and mortgages on land), all liens of any kind, information of which we can get by record.

Mr. GROSVENOR : Government bonds?

Mr. COX : Information as to Government bonds is easily obtainable from the Department.

**Mr. GROSVENOR:** The people of the United States owe in fact the bonded indebtedness of the Government—the greenbacks and all that sort of thing.

**Mr. Cox:** Those matters appear of public record and are provided for in another part of the bill. We can obtain all that information by calling on the Departments.

**Mr. GROSVENOR:** Why not say ‘mortgages, bills of sale, and chattel mortgages?’

**Mr. Cox:** Because ‘indebtedness’ is a generic term and includes everything?

**Mr. GROSVENOR:** Is it not a little too “generic?”

**Mr. Cox:** I think it fits the case exactly. We studied this matter a good deal. If we should undertake to obtain statistics of the whole indebtedness of the people throughout the United States, it would probably cost a million dollars additional, therefore we propose to collect information as to indebtedness in certain representative portions of the United States, and then make estimates. We were led to adopt this provision by reason of expressions made in this House by various members on both sides—by references which we have had in the debates here to the indebtedness of the people. Among other indebtedness, that of the farmers of the West has been called in question; nebulous statements of various kinds have been made, to which the gentleman from Ohio himself has called attention. We propose, therefore, to get as nearly as we can the statistics of the indebtedness of the people in certain representative localities, which would not cost the large sum that would be required if we should undertake to ascertain the whole indebtedness of the people. We do not propose to inquire as to promissory notes and debts of all kinds, but only as to recorded indebtedness, ascertaining perhaps 15 or 20 per cent. of the whole indebtedness of that kind, and then forming an estimate as to the rest. The collection of even this information will, according to the judgment of the Commissioner of Labor, cost at least \$250,000.

**Mr. GROSVENOR:** In the absence of data as to how much of the recorded indebtedness has been paid but not canceled upon the record, you will be just as much in the dark as ever.

**Mr. Cox:** The gentleman in his speech the other day referred to the fact that the commissioner of statistics of Michigan had undertaken to collect statistics in regard to some forty-seven counties of Michigan, making, I think, about 17 per cent. of the indebtedness of the people of the State, and forming a basis for an approximate estimate as to the rest. I think that was the only accurate statement of the kind presented here. We propose to do something of the same sort in this case, so far as we can consistently with a reasonable expenditure. We have drawn this clause very heedfully, both as to economy and as to the accomplishment of the object to be subserved. I desire to make a part of my remarks a letter on this subject from Mr. Carroll D. Wright, the Commissioner of Labor. From an examination of this letter the House will see how carefully and upon what advice the committee has acted.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LABOR.

*Washington, D. C., May 9, 1888.*

DEAR SIR: Referring to your verbal request as to methods which might be adopted in the Eleventh Census, for the collection of the statistics of indebtedness of record other than public indebtedness, I have the honor to submit the following statement:

The statistics of the indebtedness of individuals, whether the same be in the form of mortgages or debts otherwise secured, or general indebtedness through notes and bills payable, would constitute one of the most valuable lines of information that could possibly be collected.

There are three methods which naturally suggest themselves to one's mind for the collection of such data.

First. Through the population schedules of the census, by an inquiry directed to the head of every family or individual, responsible for any business transaction. This would include all farmers, business men, and others owning houses or having the care of families, or in any way individually responsible to the public. The addition of the proper inquiries to secure this information to the population schedule would involve great expense, probably increasing the cost of the enumeration proper from one-third to one-half; that is, adding from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to the expense of the enumeration.

On the other hand, the addition of proper inquiries to the population schedule would antagonize the census, so far as the enumeration is concerned, before it commenced, and the enumerators would be handicapped from the start. The success of any enumeration depends very largely upon the good will of the public and the willingness of persons to comply with the reasonable request of the Government for information concerning their affairs. All inquiries, however, regarding the financial condition of the people have heretofore been met with great opposition, and undoubtedly would be again, although should such inquiries be added to the population schedule it is safe to say that from 10 to 15 per cent., judging from past experience in such matters, would comply with the request of the Government and furnish information relative to their indebtedness. Of course, this indebtedness should be in connection with the value of the property owned by the individuals furnishing information. Such a canvass, therefore, would have for its result partial success in certain directions, at great expense, and a damaging influence upon the whole census enumerations, both as to population and manufactures, as well as agriculture.

Considering the expense and the general injury to the work of the census, this method hardly seems advisable.

Second. The collection of the facts relating to recorded indebtedness, meaning thereby all chattel and real estate mortgages, which are the subjects of record from the records themselves. Chattel mortgages are usually recorded in municipal records, while real estate mortgages are usually extended on the records kept at county seats. If real estate mortgages only were to be considered, the registers of deeds in all the counties of the United States would have to be visited and the records thoroughly compiled. There are, in round numbers, 2,700 counties in the United States. To collect the information regarding mortgages recorded in these counties, could not cost less than \$40 per county, or a total of \$108,000. I think it would be quite impossible to do it for this sum, because in order to secure any information that would be of value and which would lead to any just conclusions, the records would have to be searched for a series of years, and all mortgages minuted with reference to the assessed valuation of the towns, or townships, or of the whole county in each case.

The proper sum of estimate for this work, confined entirely to county records, would be \$200,000. It would be quite impossible to collect the information from the municipal records, so far as chattel mortgages are concerned, without either visiting every municipal government in the United States or corresponding with the proper officer in each municipal government,

to secure the information, in which latter case compensation would have to be given. It is safe to assume that the expense in securing the indebtedness under chattel mortgages by this method would be far greater than by securing it through the population enumeration. Even if the expense of securing the information relating to indebtedness through records was not objectionable on account of expense, there are obstacles in the way which render such a method unadvisable. The records of mortgages would, in all cases, give the amount of the original mortgage debt; but as a rule, payments on the original mortgage debt are not made matters of record. So where a man had given a mortgage on his place of \$10,000, and had paid say \$9,000 in part liquidation thereof, the indebtedness would still stand on record as \$10,000; so the facts, or rather the results of any collection of data from records would lead to vicious conclusions.

The second method, however, would relieve the census of all antagonism through the inquiry into the financial affairs of individuals.

Third. The employment of specially qualified experts to collect the information desired from representative communities, such collection to be made subsequent to and independent of the enumeration of the people in general. This method is free from objection in every direction except that of expense. It would not antagonize the public in any way, but it would lead to the most valuable results; that is, it would give the valuation and the indebtedness thereon to such extent as the appropriation made for it might warrant. It would not give the facts for every farm and every property-holder in the United States, but it would give the facts for representative towns or counties, and by selecting counties the information might be collected so as to show the property value of each holding, and the indebtedness thereon, as originally made and as shown through the registry of deeds, further information being sought as to the payments in part liquidation of the recorded debt.

This method seems the most feasible and the most desirable, taking all things into consideration. With an appropriation of \$200,000 or \$250,000 a very general idea of the indebtedness of the country might be gained; certainly it would be approximately correct so far as it went. If Congress saw fit to carry the matter still further it would merely be a question of money; but to make any reasonable collection, on which any fair or just conclusions could be based, the sum named should be appropriated in addition to that named in your bill for the general purposes of the census. That is to say, if Congress desires to have the fact for representative districts or localities regarding recorded indebtedness collected, it should make an extra appropriation for census purposes of at least \$250,000.

Trusting I have covered the points named by you,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CARROLL D. WRIGHT,

*Commissioner.*

Hon. S. S. Cox, M. C.,

*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

Mr. CONGER: If the indebtedness appearing upon record in the various counties of the States be taken as the basis of these statistics, the information will be so inaccurate that it would be unjust to publish it to the world. At one time an attempt of this sort was made in the State of Iowa; but it was ascertained that in probably every county of the State at least three-fourths of the chattel mortgages which had, in fact, been paid, remained uncanceled on the records. In view of such facts, it would be unfair and unjust to publish to the world information obtained in that way as exhibiting the indebtedness of the people.

Mr. Cox: I concur with the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. CONGER] in what he says, to a great extent. It is the same with mortgages in several of the States. In Ohio, mortgages are not canceled until the last instalment is paid. We have to make inquiry with the aid of experts as to what indebtedness has been paid, and how much remains. It will help a nation as well as an individual to know just what burdens it is laboring under.

Mr. CONGER: It is all guess-work.

Mr. Cox: It is more or less an estimate, I admit.

Mr. CHIPMAN: I would ask why the words in line 31, 'or prior thereto' are used. Why are those words inserted there in regard to collecting the statistics relating to recorded indebtedness?

Mr. Cox: The object is to commence the examination now, to begin the correspondence, to reach out now when the bureau is organized to get the proper correspondence so when 1890 comes they will have some of the material on hand to make the proper calculation in reference to this indebtedness.

Mr. ROGERS: I agree with my friend from Iowa. I think this would be an unwise rule of recording liens. To illustrate. I do not know in how many States South, but in my own State, agricultural operations are carried on upon liens — crop liens — which are never recorded. They are filed. They stand as filed. It may be half is paid, or a third is paid; no one knows what is paid, so far as that is concerned. When paid they are taken up and destroyed. No party who undertakes it can in the limit of thirty days go through the county offices and ascertain just what the indebtedness is. In the first place it would take a good lawyer to tell what a conditional deed is. These things have all to be considered. You will have a class of men dabbling with a subject they are incapable of understanding. Instead of giving us information the result would be to fill the country with a lot of misinformation. We cannot get anything accurate unless we employ proper parties. We cannot get the desired information unless we get a better class of men to do the work.

Mr. Cox: I have conferred with my colleagues on the committee and they are not pertinacious as to this amendment. It adds to the expense of the census \$250,000 for the collection of statistics of indebtedness, perhaps which after all may be an uncertain element. Beside, we will cut out this great expense. If any gentleman wants a vote on it in the House, or if any gentleman wants a vote now, the committee will not insist on it.

Mr. HOLMAN: It seems to be hardly practicable. It would have to be more definite to accomplish anything. The information sought for would have to be presented in such form as to give the general fact affecting localities. In going into localities, counties, townships, cities, and towns, it is a subject which ought to be carefully thought over before definite action is taken by Congress.

Mr. Cox: I withdraw the amendment at the request of the committee.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*: The Clerk will report the amendment of the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. CONGER: Before we pass away from the amendment of the committee I desire to make a remark on the subject.

Mr. COX: I have withdrawn it in deference to the criticism of the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. CONGER: Can the gentleman from New York withdraw it except by unanimous consent? I make that inquiry of the Chair.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*: If the amendment were offered by an individual he could perhaps withdraw it. The Chair understood the withdrawal by the gentleman from New York was not objected to. Does the gentleman from Iowa object to the withdrawal of the amendment?

Mr. CONGER: I do, unless I can have an inquiry answered.

Mr. COX: I will be glad to answer the gentleman.

Mr. CONGER: How much of the amendment does the gentleman desire to withdraw?

Mr. COX: I move to withdraw from 'he,' in line 30, to 'act,' in line 39. In other words, I withdraw the the following part of the amendment:

'He shall also, at the time of the general enumeration herein provided for, or prior thereto, as the Secretary of the Interior may determine, collect the statistics of and relating to the recorded indebtedness of the people, and make report thereon to Congress; but the amount expended for the collection of such statistics of indebtedness shall not exceed the sum of \$250,000, which sum is hereby appropriated, and shall be immediately available, in addition to the \$6,000,000 appropriated in section 20 of this act.'

Mr. CONGER: That is right.

Mr. COX: That cuts out twenty-two volumes in the last decade. I wish to save expense in that particular.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*: That portion of the amendment will be considered as withdrawn. The Clerk will now read the remaining portion of the amendment.

The CLERK read as follows:

'The only volume that shall be prepared and published in connection with said census shall relate to population and social statistics relating thereto, the product of manufactories, mining and agriculture, mortality and vital statistics, valuation and public indebtedness.'

The amendment was agreed to."

We are informed also that members of the House afterward were surprised over the result and that there has been a very great, if not an entire change of sentiment.

After such a hasty consultation as was only possible at the time, the Chairman of the Committee took the liberty of forwarding the enclosed circular letter to the public bodies of the country, some three hundred and eighty-two in number, and besides to individuals of prominence in the national councils, and to a few of the members of the press:

SCRANTON, Pa., July 19, 1888.

GENTLEMEN:—The following clause, in the proposed enactment for the incorporation of the Eleventh Census now before Congress, in reference to the “recorded indebtedness of the people” was favorably reported by the Census Committee of the House of Representatives (Hon. S. S. Cox, N. Y., chairman) and rejected:

“He shall also, at the time of the general enumeration herein provided for, or prior thereto, as the Secretary of the Interior may determine, collect the statistics of and relating to the recorded indebtedness of the people, and make report thereon to Congress; but the amount expended for the collection of such statistics of indebtedness shall not exceed the sum of \$250,000, which is hereby appropriated, and shall be immediately available, in addition to the \$6,000,000 appropriated in section 20 of this act.”

The Bill as amended will now go to the Senate. The clause stricken out by the House ought to be re-inserted. The Hon. Eugene Hale is Chairman of the Senate Census Committee, and if you approve the re-insertion of so important a clause as that rejected in reference to a knowledge of private indebtedness, please communicate at once with the Honorable Senator, and with every member with whom you may be acquainted, either in the Senate or the House, urging the re-instatement.

Too much importance cannot be placed upon this measure. It is a vital topic of the day. The people need information and have a right to expect it. No one can reasonably oppose this measure, except those who are interested in swelling indebtedness and debilitating our institutions.

It is only objected that there are difficulties in the way of collecting the statistics. This is to be expected, yet the approximate information that we shall obtain is vastly better than none. It will lead to a knowledge that is becoming absolutely essential, if we are ever to escape the threatening conditions induced by over-indulgence in credit.

Whatever favor you can extend is forcibly demanded by the urgent situation, and immediate action only will avail at the present time. Let your communications go forward without delay.

Hastily and respectfully,

J. A. PRICE, *Chairman*  
*National Board of Trade Committee*  
*on the Credit System.*

This circular letter was responded to favorably and voluntarily by such Associations as the National Association of Stove Manufacturers, the Single Tax League, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, with but two or three exceptions, senators and individual citizens, who are giving attention to such public concerns. The unanimity of judgment in favor of the projected

census enumeration has been and is most remarkable, considering the little time the matter has been considered.

In addition, the press has generally recognized the effort with appreciation and coöperation. Even so conservative a paper as the *New York Tribune* upon such subjects, gave the movement the benefit of its advocacy, and we select therefrom a single very temperate sentence as indicative: "One important feature of the new census is to be an effort to ascertain the indebtedness, not merely of States and municipalities, but also, approximately, of the people."

The subsequent labor upon the subject has developed the fact that the Senate, with whom the Census Bill now rests, will surely re-incorporate the rejected amendment of the House, as the Senate Committee, of which the Hon. Eugene Hale is Chairman, are understood to be decidedly favorable to the action, and further, that the House will accept the re-insertion of the Senate. The Senate will take up the Bill immediately upon the reassembly of Congress in December, and we may reasonably expect that the recorded indebtedness clause will be adopted and fully incorporated as a part of the census enumeration of 1890.

As has been shown, your Committee have received the unanimous endorsement of the chiefs of State Labor Bureaus, who have also forwarded a resolution to that effect to Congress; and in addition, we have had the hearty coöperation and sympathy of that most distinguished statistician and careful compiler of our country, the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, of the Government Bureau of Labor Statistics, whose letter to Chairman Cox, of the House Committee, appearing herewith in the Record, covering as it does, the field of operation and the advantages to be derived from an enumeration of the recorded individual indebtedness of the country carried conviction with it most satisfactorily.

Wherever understood, there is perfect unanimity of sentiment in regard to this first attempt at obtaining a knowledge of the indebtedness of the people in so far as the same is a matter of record. It is not expected that the first enumeration will be more than approximately correct, yet there is positive assurance that it will lead up to the clearing away of all entanglements of liens on which partial payments have been made and are not recorded, and that the knowledge thus obtained will be a proper basis upon



which a movement for uniformity of laws will be projected and our commercial legal system be greatly simplified.

The Committee in presenting this report have two resolutions which they ask you to consider and adopt. The first is a resolution asking the Government for information.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the credit system of the National Board of Trade be instructed to formulate a series of questions as to mortgage indebtedness, partial payments, limitation of security and the methods of collection and cancellation of mortgages in foreign countries, to be propounded to the consuls of the Government, and respectfully request the co-operation of the State Department therein.

I would say that at the request of the Scranton Board of Trade some four or five years ago, the State Department responded with a series of questions which appear in the Consular Reports No. 43, and of which we have heard very satisfactorily several times since, so that here is another item of usefulness that the Government can give us in our thirst for information upon these all-important subjects. I consequently present with this some suggestions as to the working on a set of questions not involved in the ones projected here, because these all relate to recorded matters entirely. The others relate entirely to the trading habit. The Committee present this resolution and ask your action upon it. In addition we have another resolution as follows :

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of the members of the National Board of Trade, assembled in Chicago, November 14, 15 and 16, 1888, the net recorded individual indebtedness of the people should be included within the scope of the next national census, such investigation to include judgments to secure which real estate has been pledged.

This is virtually the same resolution that has been passed by a great many Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, and at the annual sessions of the Commissioners of Labor. While the assurances come from Washington that the clause will be reinserted, yet this action of the National Board of Trade we deem to be important. These two resolutions are presented.

Mr. ROBY, of Rochester : I would like to ask this one question : Whether the information obtained will not be somewhat unsatis-

factory, if a knowledge of the value of the real estate is not obtained at the same time? Does your resolution provide for that?

Mr. PRICE: I would answer the gentleman that that is the great question that arose before all action or suggestion in regard to this matter; that it has been exhaustively, widely and thoroughly considered; that the judgment of good men is that, summing it all up, it will be one of those things that the Government should do as a preliminary to subsequent work it may do upon that and kindred subjects; that it cannot arrive at anything except an approximate estimate or condition is undoubtedly true. Mr. Wright, anticipates—and I think it appears in the letter which he addressed to Mr. Cox—and covers that whole ground thoroughly, but concludes that there can be no question but that this knowledge, imperfect as it may be, the first as it will be, is so absolutely necessary that it is a governmental function and a very proper one. Admitting the gentleman's position yet at the same time it is met by the judgment of men who have been consulted all over the country in regard to the necessities of the case.

Mr. GOODALE: May I ask the gentleman a question? Is it intended in the word "recorded indebtedness" to also include such things as chattel mortgages?

Mr. PRICE: Not unless recorded.

Mr. GOODALE: They are recorded in most States, as well as bills of sale.

Mr. PRICE: There are a great many crop liens and things of that kind that we have come across that appear in the pathway also. The position that is taken now is to get the very best that can be obtained.

Mr. GOODALE: I am asking for information, because I desire to go one step further: For instance the State of Ohio; there are some other States situated in the same way. Everything is in the direction of chattel mortgages there and crop liens. A crop lien of course is a chattel mortgage. That is an indebtedness of

record. On the opposite side of that, in order to show to the reader the condition of affairs, should be set the value of the article mortgaged. Now the appraised value of the real estate in the State of Ohio is a little less than one-third of its value. The bankable value of that property is a little over one-half. If you take the record of the mortgages of the real estate in that locality and set opposite the appraised real estate value, and then send that out to the country, you represent a condition of affairs that will be distorted. In other words if you will take the mortgage indebtedness of the State of Ohio, and put that opposite the appraised real estate value, you will represent the State as almost insolvent. In Hamilton County, Ohio, there are two hundred million dollars on the tax duplicate and yet there are \$160,000,000 of real estate loans by building associations exclusively. Yet there is no man but understands that does not represent the exact condition of affairs. If we in the United States go into a record of matters of that kind we will distort the facts to such an extent that other countries will think we are insolvent.

Mr. PRICE: I think that matter has all been answered. I will not say it has been answered by myself but by Mr. WRIGHT, whom I regard as far as my association of years past with him is concerned, to be very eminent in all those matters. It is possible to get at a fairly approximate rating. A great many local considerations will be introduced in order to obtain this approximate indebtedness. It is not desired on the part of any who have expressed themselves, or of this committee, to give anything fictitious. Certain it is, if we recognize this tendency to credit, and we have no knowledge of it, we must start somewhere; and if we wait before we start until we have uniform laws, I am fearful we will wait a very great length of time. It does seem to me from the conversations I have had, and the letters I have received from all parts of the country, that when you balance accounts there is enough to be gained to overcome all the objections which have been considered urged. In the discouragement of being unable to get at it in any other way, it does seem that this governmental function is one we can appeal to and the only one. It may be that the result of this investigation will be such that it will be fruitless to pursue it further. Certain it is, you never will discover anything unless you start upon the voyage of discovery.

Mr. GOODALE, of Cincinnati: I am seeking for information, because I want to know how to vote upon this question. I belong to that class of the mercantile community that are opposed to putting the worst foot forward in doing business. If we were to take the hypothesis of the gentleman, we would either have to suppress the appraised value of this property in order to make a correct showing, or we would have to discontinue making such investigations. Take the State of Mississippi. Her indebtedness far exceeds her appraisement. Take the State of Louisiana, to-day, and I question whether it will make a satisfactory showing. The census of a country is really the inventory that is taken, as a merchant takes an inventory of his stock. We take that inventory for what purpose? For the purpose of showing those who are interested, be they residents of the United States or residents abroad, the actual condition of the United States. When a man from Kansas takes an inventory of that State and presents it to a man in Boston and asks upon that a loan of money, he surely does not want to have the State represented as insolvent, which would be the exact condition of affairs if we were to pursue such investigation as is proposed. We have either got to suppress the appraised value or we have got to put on a different value or a correct value. You cannot do that. So I think the question of securing the recorded indebtedness and putting opposite to it the appraised value will be an injury rather than a benefit. I believe we ought to know the exact indebtedness of a locality, but I do not think we ought to put that before the world in such a condition as to do an injury. The tax duplicate of the State of Ohio furnishes us a good illustration. If you take the various building associations, the various chattel mortgages as to which there are no appraisements, together with the liens and judgments, without explanation, you will find the total amount will come pretty near to showing insolvency. And yet nobody dares say the State of Ohio is insolvent when its four per cent. bonds are selling, to-day, at a premium.

Mr. ROBY, of Rochester: Mr. President and gentlemen, it occurred to me when Mr. PRICE was reading his resolution that the information sought to be obtained was only partial and that it would be misleading, as stated by the gentleman from Cincinnati. It must be misleading, unless the estimate of the value of

the property which is mortgaged is also given. I do not see why that could not be done. If the knowledge of this indebtedness is obtained it seems to me that further knowledge should be added at the same time.

Mr. PARKER, of Cincinnati: Mr. President, there seems to be a very large class of indebtedness that I have not heard referred to by the gentlemen, and that is judgments. Those are all matters of record in our Courts.

Mr. PRICE: They are covered by the resolution.

Mr. PARKER: There is this phase of the question: a judgment may be recorded against ten men for ten thousand dollars and that goes on record as ten thousand dollars against each of these men. It is a lien against the real estate of each. A case of that sort would certainly make a very bad showing if the statistics were to go forth.

Mr. PRICE: We have never contemplated any horizontal, rough-shod, pell-mell work. It is expected that some intelligence will go along with this difficult computation; that consideration will be given to all the points that have been raised here. But to what extent, until we have had more time to gather the facts upon which the enumeration may be made, it will be impossible for me to say. I would not be so bold as to take any position in regard to it, because I am yet in the schooling period. My objective point is information upon this universally acknowledged subject of threatening importance to the people of this country. That is all. If any man can suggest the avenue by which we can travel differently from this, I will go with him heart and hand. I do not see where it is; and in all the correspondence over so broad a field, and during the past eight or nine months, I have not yet had the suggestion. While there has been some little caviling and opposition, yet a formal method has not been suggested. Hence the Committee would have to conclude that, so far as the present time is concerned, it is the best way we know to approach the subject.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, it seems to me this is an exceedingly broad subject, an exceedingly heavy, weighty subject. I question whether the gentlemen can vote upon

it with full intelligence. With my present information, I shall be compelled to vote against the resolution as offered. Not, perhaps, because it may not be worthy of our consideration, not because the matter coming before us may not be of great importance, but for want of careful study and thought as to the effect of this action upon the community. I have no doubt the subject is a very valuable one and if we had hours, or days, or weeks, perhaps, to spend upon it, we might arrive at some conclusion; but I am almost tempted — I will not do it, however, but I am almost tempted — to offer a resolution to postpone the matter for further consideration. I will not make that motion without further discussion.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: I rise with some reluctance to speak upon this subject. The gentlemen will remember that this Committee was appointed on the information we had from the Scranton Board of Trade, at the last session of the National Board, which set before us a perfectly appalling condition with regard to debts.

I presume if these facts come to be known, the bankruptcy of many countries and of the aggregate communities of countries will be demonstrated. With us, as a young and growing people, with natural resources unsurpassed anywhere, with a tendency to prodigality that is perfectly frightful because of the ease with which we go into debt, it seems to me that we ought to be willing to stand the disclosure and take the consequences. See where we are standing, on the borders of a precipice, and let us stop before it is too late. In the State of Ohio, we have communities which are indebted beyond their assessable property. How is this thing working? Here is a class of the community who want work at the hands of the public. The politician, seeking place, of course, does it. He goes to the Legislature and votes that bonds be issued in accordance with the request of the men who want work. I am speaking intelligently about our own communities. There is a constant stream of applications to our Legislature every session from communities all over the State for all kinds of improvements, saying, "Let posterity pay for this; we will get it now and tax ourselves for it." We cannot go on with this sort of thing. It is well for us to be admonished in time. It is well for us, if there are facts to be presented by this Committee to startle

us, to accept them and be startled and correct our ways. Unless we do this, saddling posterity with a debt will, at last, revive in our country a condition of affairs that has existed in the older countries. God forbid that America should ever present such a picture.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago : I remember very vividly how the address delivered by Mr. PRICE last year impressed me. When the question came up for consideration, I had had some sort of feeling which is natural and which we have witnessed here this morning. That is, a shrinking from making anything like a public exhibit of our indebtedness. Mr. GANO has covered all the ground, I think, in opposition to that position. I was so much interested in that address last year that I requested Mr. MURRAY, of the Cincinnati Price Current, to publish it, and contracted to take a number of copies which I distributed through the Northwest pretty generally, sending a copy to every banker of this city and to some clergymen. One prominent clergyman in this city some two or three weeks after receiving that address, delivered a very powerful sermon on the subject under consideration. Gentlemen, those of you who did not hear it, had you heard the presentation, showing the constantly increasing tendency toward piling up indebtedness, you would cry halt. The only way by which the people of this country can be induced to halt is to put the actual facts and figures before them. It is one of the wisest questions this Board can consider. It is one of the very best things the national government can do. It is immaterial who is surprised. It is immaterial who is staggered or who is alarmed at the situation. If we are ever going to stop this tendency to prodigality toward the individual expense that has been referred to, if we are ever going to turn the attention of the American people toward the more excellent course of prudence, if we are ever going to warn investors, or properly inform them as to where they shall place their credit, it is better for us to do so now. It would be well for our merchants to know who are out of debt and who are in debt. It will be better for our merchants to know the desirableness of the State of Ohio, so far as placing their wares on credit is concerned, as compared with the State of Mississippi or some other State. The tendency is increasing in this city of giving long credits to merchants, six months and a year. Goods are being sold now and dated three or four or five or six months

ahead at six months' credit, and then a year and that is repeated. All that sort of thing is going on until the real estate of the land is being encumbered with mortgages. Now let us have this information. We know there is power in knowledge. We know there is always safety in it. When you undertake to put alongside of your figures, as has been suggested, the assessable value of property, you are undertaking something that is highly impracticable. We get that in another place, in the census returns. Any intelligent observer can find it there.

In regard to the proposition to get the appraised value of property. What could be done in one or two days in a county town would require three months of travel over the county to obtain anything like the proper value of the property. We do not care for that. We get that in the aggregate of the census returns for each State.

We get in the census report an estimate of the real estate values, the personal property values, the live-stock values and various values in all these States. The reports are very exhaustive. We do not need any more than that. What I desire to have is the fullest information possible on this subject of debt. I am not one of those who believe in the maxim that a public debt is a public blessing; not a bit of it.

We are trying to wipe out our public debts. Let us try to wipe out individual indebtedness also. I do not believe that individual indebtedness is an individual blessing; not by any means.

Mr. GOODALE: I rise simply to ask Mr. POPE whether if I were to show him the tax duplicate of Cook County, in 1880, showing a little over \$137,000,000 and that the estimated indebtedness at that time, in liens, judgments, etc., was a little over \$170,000,000. would he believe that Chicago was bankrupt at that time?

Mr. POPE: I am not speaking on the question of bankruptcy. I would like the investor to have all the light he can. He ought to know what our indebtedness is.

Mr. GOODALE: That is the case. Your tax duplicate was \$137,000,000. The very proposition is to show we are bankrupt when we are not. It is to show we owe so much money. Then the real estate value and stock value and personal value all added together would make the opposite side and show upon what the



wealth of the city was based. I say it will grossly misrepresent any locality to put down its recorded indebtedness, its liens and judgments, and not to give a truthful showing of the opposite side, which could not be done by any system that we have yet in use. What we are after is to show the indebtedness. The man who grants a credit to another does it upon something; and he, and he alone, is responsible. If he is willing to take that house yonder for a mortgage of \$50,000, that is all right if that house will sell for it. Nobody is interested except himself. If you seek to ascertain the actual indebtedness of municipalities, the actual indebtedness of those the Legislature controls in the matter of loans, then I say amen to it. But if you seek to find the amount of private indebtedness, unless you can also put a truthful valuation upon private assets, I think you would do the Government, as well as every locality, an injury.

Mr. ROBY: In Rochester, within the last two or three years, we have had some elegant commercial buildings erected. Among them one was erected by Mr. Samuel Wilder, who may be known to some of you here. He is rather an amusing man. In talking with some of his friends in the East, he said one day "Come out and see me. I will show you the tallest building in western New York, with the biggest mortgage on it." That was his way of talking. The fact is just this: he has built a fine building and he put a mortgage of \$250,000 upon it. The property is worth \$600,000 and is rented for about \$60,000. He did not have quite money enough and he took into partnership with him, to use that term, certain capitalists in the East to the extent of \$250,000 at an interest of about 4 per cent. I contend that that was a good operation and that it would be misleading as to Rochester if the indebtedness was published without the corresponding well-known facts.

Mr. LIONBERGER, of St. Louis: Mr. President, it seems to me that we are asking the Government to do that which is within the province and the power of every individual to do for himself. If this is for the protection of the merchant, what does he care about the indebtedness of the counties? If I sell my goods to an individual in a certain county, I do not care very much whether that county is indebted to the extent of \$1,000,000, or less, so long as I

know my customer is out of debt. I am looking into his affairs. If I want as a capitalist to loan \$500,000 to a county, I look into the indebtedness of the county.

Mr. PRICE: Will the gentleman allow me to interrupt him? I would only say in answer to that that the indebtedness of municipalities of all kinds is already provided for in the general act. This provision refers to individuals.

Mr. LIONBERGER: Capital, as we all know is very sensitive. It is usually able to take care of itself. If I as a merchant do not take the necessary pains to investigate the responsibility of the parties to whom I sell my merchandise, I do not think I ought to ask the Government to pass an act in my behalf. There may be objects to be attained; but it seems to me that the method is not exactly the proper one. In other words, I think there is a growing tendency among the American people to ask too much of the Government. We want to ask as little of the Government as we can and take care of our own affairs. I again assert that as merchants and as money lenders, we must look after our own credits. I venture to assert that the largest establishments of Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, New York, and other cities, do not care anything about the liabilities of a State. They simply ask whether John Smith is entitled to a credit of \$5,000 and they are not going to take the statements of a man in Washington as to the responsibility of that individual. They have their own methods and their own means of ascertaining his liabilities and responsibilities. I think, gentlemen, we are acting upon rather dangerous ground.

Mr. COATES, of Philadelphia: Mr. President, we heard this morning the great danger there was in misrepresentation in regard to statistics, so far as the grain trade is concerned. It seems to me there is much more danger in misrepresentations in regard to capital in this matter. Let me give an instance that came under my knowledge. I knew of a mortgage given in the State of New Jersey for security of a debt. The mortgage was \$7,500. The debtor got weaker, and the creditor entered the bond in the State of Pennsylvania for the same amount. Now under this resolution that would be counted twice, and I presume there are many other such instances. If a difference in the statistics of grain of

2½ per cent. affects the grain trade very considerably, I think that capital, being so much more sensitive than grain, would be injured much more by incorrect reports. It seems to me the reports we would have would be so crude that they would be misleading.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: There is one other reason why I shall vote against this resolution. It is that I think the Government has undertaken all it can well do now in the matter of the census. There are some of the reports of the last census which are not yet published. One volume of statistics regarding the health of the western cities is still unpublished. If we ask the Government to do still more, the next census will not be ready to be printed until it is time for the one that follows to be out. If they do well what they have undertaken now, I think it is certainly all we can expect. I am sure the city of Milwaukee, from which I hail, would make a very good showing in regard to the mortgage question, for there are whole streets without a single mortgage on them. We are often criticised, and asked why we do not go ahead faster, and put up buildings twelve or fifteen stories high. The highest building in Milwaukee is only five stories. Our people are so cautious that rather than put on mortgages, they are content to live in buildings only five stories high; so we should cut a very good figure in this matter. At the same time we feel it would be very misleading and place many of our enterprising cities in a bad light, when the very fact that they have an immense debt is indicative of their enterprise rather than of bad management and bad business habits. I think a large debt is not always a bad sign for a place. It shows that the people who have gone in debt have faith in their city, and it shows that the people who have loaned money have faith in the city and have faith in each other. It is not as if we owed foreign nations. If one man loans another \$50,000 it is a matter between themselves, and the country is neither richer nor poorer because of that transaction.

Mr. PRICE: I do not suppose this Board will block the wheels of this Committee in getting information. The discussion has been upon the second resolution. The first resolution presented was that the Committee on the Credit system of the National Board of Trade should be instructed to formulate a series of

questions as to mortgage indebtedness, partial payments, limitations of security and the methods of collections and cancellation of mortgages in foreign countries, to be propounded by the consuls of the Government.

If you will dispose of that, which of course has not aroused discussion, then the way will be open for the disposition of the other resolution. The second resolution offered by the Committee is the only one that appears to cause opposition.

The PRESIDENT: The first question is upon the adoption of the resolution which the gentleman from Scranton has just read.

The resolution was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: The question now recurs on the second resolution.

Mr. LEE, of St. Louis: I would like to say a word on the second resolution. It seems to me that the necessary result of the adoption of that resolution and the carrying of the resolution into effect will be to injure certain towns and cities in different parts of the country. Different municipalities will be effected differently, in this way: For instance, in the State of Missouri we assess our real property at or very near its full value. We do that to learn the necessary revenue that is required to carry on the affairs of our large cities, being under an imposition by our constitution not to assess property beyond a certain rate. In order to get the revenue desired and necessary to be used, in carrying on our municipal affairs, we are required to assess our property at almost its full value. It has been stated here, and I know the fact to be, that in many of the States real property, and personal property for that matter, is assessed at half its value, in some places at not more than one-third of its full value. As a matter of course you cannot avoid the putting of the indebtedness that is ascertained by this census report over against the assessed value; that is, over against the real and personal property, and the one will be contrasted with the other. You cannot avoid that. In this way, although the census report does not call for any valuation upon real estate or the personal property, yet in many cases, as has been said, the methods of fixing the valuation of real and personal property differ. Now, as I say, one will be con-

trusted with the other, and it will be seen that Cincinnati or Louisville or some other city does not compare favorably with St. Louis, or with St. Joe or Kansas City, and the former places will be injured by the comparison, resulting not from the actual condition of things, but because in one case you have assessed the property at its full value and in the other at perhaps one-third of its value. So the community is injured and it does not seem to me any benefit is to be derived by the merchant in obtaining knowledge of the condition of the particular community. As my friend, Mr. LIONBERGER, of St. Louis, has said, what the merchants want is to ascertain the exact condition as far as they may of the persons to whom they give credit; of the persons to whom they sell their goods. We do not care about the condition of the community, in respect to its inability or its ability to pay its debts with the property it has at hand. That is not the point. What the merchant wants is something to enable him to carry on his business intelligently and successfully. He does not care to investigate the condition of the community in which a particular party lives who desires credit. You find out if you can what he is worth and what credit he is entitled to receive; not whether his community is or is not in a bankrupt condition. It seems to me from the light which I now have I shall feel constrained to vote against this second resolution.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo: Mr. President, it seems to me to pass such a resolution as this would place us in a very unfavorable position. I do not think we should present to any community, or to any city, the facts in relation to the liabilities of individuals, towns, cities or counties, because, as has been remarked by Mr. LEE, if you take the appraised value of property and take the obligations against that property, you will then have to meet the problem that property is generally assessed for much less than it is worth. Then there is the liability of individuals which is not a matter of record at all. As has been remarked by our friends from St. Louis, the merchant looks especially to the individual himself and attends to his own business personally. I think to pass such a resolution as this will place us in a very false position.

Mr. DRIER, of Chicago: Allow me to call attention to two facts which tend to show that any enumeration of mortgage indebted-

ness by districts or localities will be entirely irrelevant to any question which may arise in regard to giving commercial or mercantile credit. We must not lose sight of the fact that a mortgage is an instrument by which the nominal owner of property shares the actual ownership with others. He simply parts with a portion of the title to the property. We cannot judge of the credit of the individual from the bare fact of his having issued a mortgage against a piece of property which he holds, because we cannot know, without asking him individually, for what purpose this mortgage was given; whether it was given in order to raise money which he had lost in other operations, or as part of the purchase money of the property, or again, simply for convenience. Sometimes a mortgage is given in the interest of the party with whom a man is dealing, or parties dealing together, so as to acquire a larger piece of property than a single individual could pay for and own. A collection of this sort of information might show a large amount of debt in a new locality which really would not prove any distress there, but only this: That the purchasers of all this property have only been able to pay for a part of it. It does not show that they have run in debt for anything. It only shows that they have acquired property from others, and these others may still practically own a large portion of the realty themselves and count themselves so much richer. A mortgage given in a special locality might be held in the very same locality. If you want to count that locality poorer to the extent of the mortgage indebtedness, you must not lose sight of the fact that the very neighbors of the party who gave it may be the richer. You cannot judge by the amount of mortgage indebtedness as to whether a locality is poorer or richer; whether it is really impoverished through incurring this mortgage indebtedness, or whether the evidence before you simply shows that the actual ownership in all the property is divided through the instrumentality of mortgages instead of through ordinary ownership.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: Mr. President, it strikes me that this question wants consideration. It seems to have merit, and it seems to have, in the estimation of some gentlemen, demerit. Now I make this suggestion in view of the importance of the question and in view of the want, apparently, of more thorough investigation, that the resolution be postponed until the next session and placed upon the programme for consideration at that time.

The PRESIDENT: Is the Board ready for the question, which is a privileged question?

Mr. GOODALE: Mr. President, I believe in putting the question at once. We have discussed the matter pretty full and are just as well fitted to pass upon it as we will be hereafter. The inequalities of appraised values are so great, I think every person within the sound of my voice appreciates the fact. Gentlemen are probably aware that the tax value of personal property in Ohio is \$440,000,000 and the tax value of personal property in Pennsylvania is \$243,000,000. That is over \$200,000,000 difference between the appraised value of personal property in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Mr. GANO, of Cincinnati: No one knows better than the gentleman who has just sat down that the appraisement of personal property in Ohio does not represent a tithe of the property held. Why? Because the condition of things with regard to debt has gone on in such a way that our laws are a premium for lying and fraud in the State of Ohio.

Mr. GOODALE: I grant it.

Mr. GANO: So that our tax assessment is no fair presentation of the wealth of the State of Ohio, simply because the people are afraid of the effects of the influence I referred to awhile ago powerful in the Legislature, to continually precipitate us into debt; borrow, borrow, borrow as long as there is credit, and then let the creditor whistle.

Mr. GOODALE: Is not that a potent argument in favor of abolishing this system of putting queries, because Ohio and Pennsylvania have inequalities; and in fact I think there are some localities where there is no assessment of personal property. On account of that inequality I oppose asking these questions.

Mr. GANO: I beg the gentleman's pardon. I would not have him understand I concede that for a moment. The desirableness of this information has grown upon those who have given the matter some attention. It is not with reference so much, or with reference at all, to how it may affect the credit of individuals, because it is not believed it will affect them very seriously, but

that we may be brought to a knowledge of the facts with regard to the situation, that we may be able to act intelligently, as men should act about our credit. A report of this character cannot be well taken in any other way than through the agency of the Government, in the collection of the census. The figures may be very inaccurate and are likely to be inaccurate. They may be very unsatisfactory and very incomplete, but they will be steps in the direction of information that civilized people want for intelligent action in their own affairs.

Mr. LIONBERGER: Mr. President, if you could secure information that would really be accurate, I think I should favor it. But we all know there are several hundred million dollars of obligations of the Government of the United States, probably, owned in part by gentlemen in this room that you do not give in your estimates at all. They are not taxable. Yet, if you give in your liabilities, is it not fair you should give in your assets? That is a non-taxable security. We also know that poor, frail human nature, for the purpose of avoiding taxation, will secrete as much as possible, and that there are large quantities of personal securities that cannot be reached; valuable assets. The objection I have to this plan is that it is absolutely unreliable.

The PRESIDENT: The question is upon the motion to postpone the further consideration of the resolution and place it upon the programme for the next session of the Board.

The motion was lost.

The PRESIDENT: The question recurs upon the adoption of the resolution reported by the Committee.

Mr. FUSZ, of St. Louis: Mr. President, I have heard with a great deal of interest the discussion that has taken place on this report. I can very well see that there two sides to the question. It has seemed to impress parties equally well for and against. I had hoped this matter might be postponed in order that further thought might be given to the subject; but, as it is to be pressed to a vote, I intend to give my views as I have formulated them from the debate I have heard. We are on the subject of statistics. We at present obtain statistics of public indebtedness. This Committee proposes to consider the further fact of private indebt-



edness. It is, undoubtedly, a very valuable element in statistics. I do not see any objection to having that also obtained. I differ from my colleagues from St. Louis in their views. I believe the more light we can get on any subject the better for us all, and I am not afraid if any community is understood to be heavily in debt, both to public and private individuals, to have it so declared to the world, no matter whom it may affect.

Again, indebtedness, public and private, bears interest. If we see it recorded, it indicates that the community is heavily indebted. We know also they must pay interest accordingly. That is an element on which the opinions of all parties as to the credit of that community will be affected more or less. When it comes to an individual's credit, however, we naturally inquire. If a community stands before the world as heavily indebted and we are applied to for credit by one of its citizens, we, of course, bear that in mind and at the same time inquire in regard to the private individual. I know we do not expect Government or any other statistics that may be had, to give us absolute certainty or an absolute guide for our action. But, at the same time, it will guide to a certain degree, and will set us more upon inquiry and I think it will be to that extent valuable. If the matter is to be voted upon now, I shall vote to adopt the resolution reported by the Committee.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago: I am very glad to hear that suggestion from the gentleman from St. Louis, but I rise to make a motion that we now adjourn. I shall be very glad to see this action taken without further debate. It is only three or four minutes to the appointed hour for adjournment. I am willing the matter shall be decided in the morning. I think we shall all feel better if we close this debate at this stage.

Mr. LIONBERGER: I rise to second the motion, and I do it because I feel that this matter, having been investigated by gentlemen of intelligence, there must be more in it than I can now see. If I were forced to vote upon it with the light I now have, I certainly should be compelled to vote against it.

The motion was agreed to; and, at 5.55 P.M., the Board adjourned until to-morrow morning.

### THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, November 16, 1888.

The Board was called to order at 10.15 A.M. by the **PRESIDENT**.

The **PRESIDENT**: Gentlemen, I have the pleasure of announcing to you, pursuant to the order made yesterday, that the Executive Council should fix the time and place for holding the next session of this Board, that Louisville, Kentucky, has been unanimously agreed upon as the place, and the time is to be fixed by the President not later than the month of October.

Mr. How, of Chicago; Since the first day of our meeting several organizations have sent representatives here, which have no member on the Executive Council. I would move that for the Boston Merchant's Association Mr. JONATHAN A. LANE, for the Omaha Board of Trade Mr. GEORGE M. NATTINGER, and for the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce Mr. H. DUDLEY COLEMAN, be elected to the office of vice president, and that the secretary be instructed to cast the vote of the Board for those gentlemen.

The motion was agreed to, the **SECRETARY** cast the vote as directed and the nominees were declared duly elected.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: I ask the permission of the Board to present and put at the foot of the programme the resolution which I will read. I do not think it will require the slightest discussion in its consideration:

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its president to collect information as to the effect of trust organizations in this country on the interests of consumers, and their bearing upon the foreign and local commerce and the industries of the country; said committee to report at the next meeting of the Board.

The resolution was received and placed at the foot of the programme.

The **PRESIDENT**: When the Board adjourned yesterday, the question pending was upon the resolution from the Committee on the Credit System; the second resolution proposed by that Committee.

**Mr. McLAREN**, of Milwaukee: In view of the exhaustive discussion which has already taken place on this subject and in view of the time of the convention that has been taken up with it, I move that the resolution now before us be laid on the table.

**Mr. GOODALE**: Will **Mr. McLAREN** allow me to make a suggestion? While I am opposed to the resolution as it stands, I am not opposed to obtaining all the information which we can upon a subject so important as this. I think something is due to this Committee as an act of courtesy, for they have been very thorough in their work. I would therefore, if **Mr. McLAREN** will accept the motion, move that the matter be referred back to the Committee, with a courteous request that they pursue their investigations and prepare such questions and gain such information as they can, to be brought up at our next annual meeting.

**Mr. McLAREN**: I do not wish to have my resolution withdrawn. I desire to have my resolution passed, because I am myself entirely opposed to the proposition from the Committee. The passage of my resolution does not dispose of the Committee. It is a permanent Committee. I should be very glad if the Committee would continue their labors and give us at the next session any further information they can. I desire to have a vote on the resolution.

**Mr. LIONBERGER**: I would be very glad to second the motion, and will do so provided the action of the Committee is simply confined to investigation. But they have gone a little further and have got the Boards of Trade and the Chambers of Commerce of various sections of the country to endorse what it is proposed to do. If they will confine their work simply to collecting data for our consideration or the consideration of our successors here, I will be very glad to second the motion. But I want it to be distinctly confined to investigation.

**Mr. GOODALE**: Realizing of course that **Mr. McLAREN's** motion will take precedence, I can say nothing upon the motion I had

proposed until after that is disposed of ; but I earnestly trust the Committee will be given an opportunity and that we will extend to them that courtesy to which they are entitled by the resolution I have offered. I trust the motion to lay on the table will be voted down.

The PRESIDENT: There is a previous question, which is a motion to recommit the subject to the Committee which reported it. That motion is a privileged motion, and takes precedence of the motion of Mr. McLAREN. If the motion to recommit does not prevail, then Mr. McLAREN's motion to lay the resolution on the table will be in order.

Mr. LIONBERGER, of St. Louis: I wish to offer an amendment: provided the Committee shall not take any step committing this Board to any definite action. I do not wish to reflect upon the Committee. I simply have this view about it: Communications have been addressed to the various Chambers of Commerce and those Chambers, without giving the matter the deliberation they should have given, have committed themselves and passed resolutions endorsing this measure. That is what I object to. Let us confine the action of the Committee simply to collating evidence or data to throw light upon this matter when we come together. If the Committee are to go on and tell the country that this Board commits itself to this policy, I am opposed to it.

The PRESIDENT: The motion of Mr. LIONBERGER is that the resolution to recommit be amended so as to give the Committee the specific instruction which he has indicated.

Mr. GOODALE: I will accept that amendment.

The motion to recommit was then agreed to.

The SECRETARY read proposition IX, Coast and Harbor Defences, from the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, with the following.

*Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the erection of harbor and coast defences, and particularly, the fortification of the eastern entrance of Long Island Sound, as being the most direct approach to the port of New York and coast of Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Mr. BARNES, of New Haven : Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Board of Trade, I will not take more than two or three minutes to state why the New Haven Chamber of Commerce presents this resolution. They believe Congress should formulate some well defined plan of coast defence, which shall include the building of fortifications at all necessary points, and they believe that one of the first points to be touched is the eastern end of Long Island Sound, which is the nearest entrance to the port of New York, the back door entrance, so to speak. Long Island Sound has an immense fleet of vessels carrying millions of tons of merchandise annually, numerous lines of steam-boats running to different towns in New England, and in case of a foreign war the ships of the enemy assembling there could cause incalculable damage to the country. Therefore they ask this Board to pass the resolution. It is substantially the same as was passed last year. I move its adoption.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York ; I suggest to my friend from New Haven that he follow the precedent established yesterday in the matter of the rivers and harbors, and that he make his resolution general, leaving out the specific mention of Long Island Sound. If he will make it general I think there will be no objection and we will pass it at once.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Chicago : I had in mind exactly what Mr. STRANAHAN has said and had prepared a substitute for this resolution which I will read and offer in place of the resolution presented by the Chamber of Commerce of New Haven :

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade memorialize Congress to provide immediately such defences as will be necessary in the event of war to thoroughly protect our sea and lake coast harbors.

Mr. BARNES : I will accept that.

Mr. COLEMAN : Does the gentleman object to putting in the word "gulf" also?

Mr. WASHBURN : Not at all. I will include the word "gulf."

The substitute was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read proposition X, the surplus revenue, submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, with the following resolutions :

*Resolved*, That recent events have shown in a manner which cannot longer be disregarded, the danger to the business interests of the country from our Government continuing in time of peace, the excessive taxation which was necessary in time of war. A large surplus in the Treasury ties up the circulating medium which is the life-blood of commerce, exposes the people to still greater taxation in the shape of high rates of interest, acts as a menace to industry, dwarfs business enterprise, gives the Treasury a power over commerce which was never contemplated, and is a constant temptation to extravagance in the administration of our Government.

*Resolved*, That business men of all parties, whether protectionists or free-traders, should unite in demanding early action by Congress to reduce our present enormous revenues in a way which will least embarrass existing industries.

*Resolved*, That while it is desirable to reduce the internal taxes, it is not desirable to abolish the internal revenue system as a whole, for the reason that it affords guarantees of quality to consumers and insures the prosperity of established industries.

MR. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, this is a broad subject. In some sense it might be called a political subject. We are all surfeited with political speeches and political divisions. I ask leave of the Board to make some alterations in the resolution as proposed, so that it will read :

*Resolved*, That business men should unite in demanding early action by Congress to reduce our present revenues in a way which will least embarrass existing industries.

I move the adoption of the resolution in that form.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. BACON, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, I wish to offer a resolution to carry into effect the action taken yesterday by the Board, similar to what we have passed heretofore ; without some effective means this action will be entirely useless :

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to carry into effect the proposition adopted by this Board, favoring the adoption of the cental system

of weight in transactions in grain, seeds and other commodities to which it is applicable, by securing the cōoperation of the individual commercial organizations of the country, and the recommendation to favorable action on the part of representatives in Congress from their respective districts.

The PRESIDENT: Shall the gentleman have leave to introduce the resolution?

Leave was granted.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: I would like to ask the gentleman from Milwaukee (Mr BACON) if it would not improve the resolution a little to have it read "The Committee to report practical measures for introducing the Cental system." The resolution now reads "To carry into effect the proposition adopted by this Board." They cannot do that. They can only report practical measures and recommend them. It seems to me it would be well for that Committee also to be empowered to communicate, not only with the respective organizations which are constituent members here and others in the country, but also with the proper persons in Congress with a view to any legislation that may be necessary. The subject is most important and the declarations of the Board have been very decided and pronounced. The history of the matter, perhaps, is familiar to many. Although the system came very near a practical adoption, by some untoward accident years ago it failed. The proposition of our friend from Milwaukee is the very thing we want. We want to do something more than resolve. We want to do something practical with regard to that important proposition. But it appears to me if the resolution is modified in that respect it would more nearly effect the object in view.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: I would say my idea in offering the resolution for the appointment of this Committee was that the matter might be placed in the hands of the Committee to carry out the purposes and desires of the National Board, by communicating with the various commercial organizations of the country; and, if practicable, getting a unison of opinion as to the time when the change can be carried into effect and an agreement upon mutual cōoperation in the adoption of the system; and in that connection that each of the bodies request the representatives from their districts in Congress to advocate its adoption by Con-

gress. My idea is that, before this Board meets again, this work can be done ; if it meet with favor throughout the country, it can be carried into effect, perhaps, by the first of July next. I would empower this Committee to draw an act and take the initiative in carrying into effect this proposition. It is a work that will involve a great deal of labor and a great deal of time ; but it seems to me, by correspondence undertaken immediately, action can be secured by the coming session of Congress ; and thereupon immediately, or even concurrently with that, correspondence can be carried on with the different commercial organizations of the country to ascertain to what extent they are ready to co-operate in the work. In need not be laid over until the next meeting, which would cause a year's delay in its adoption. When this scheme was on foot twenty years ago, I took an active interest in it and was greatly disappointed at its failure ; but that failure, it seems to me, was attributable to a want of sufficiently extensive co-operation. Only a few of the Boards of Trade of the country undertook to adopt it. The New York Produce Exchange, the most important in the country, was entirely indifferent in regard to it. It would devolve upon this Committee to ascertain whether the several Produce Exchanges and Boards of Trade of the country are ready to a sufficient extent to render the carrying out of this idea practicable at this time. That was my idea in offering the resolution.

Mr. GANO : If we can have a Committee to do this work, I would very cordially approve of the idea. I withdraw my suggestion.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read subject XI, the tax on alcohol, submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, with the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the internal revenue tax upon alcohol used in the arts and manufactures should be abolished.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York : Mr. President and gentlemen, in view of the fact that that resolution has been repeatedly passed, I move to postpone the further consideration of the subject until next year.



Mr. WEISSINGER : I second the motion.

The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The SECRETARY : Under the order of the Board, proposition XX will now be taken up. The subject is the regulation of immigration and it is proposed by the Philadelphia Board of Trade, with the following resolution :

*Whereas*, The increasing ease of ocean transport renders our shores continually more and more accessible to the scourings of foreign disease and poverty and crime; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That preventive measures against this evil should be increased, that the reception of paupers, helpless invalids and criminals is not a necessary part of our free institutions, nor demanded by national hospitality.

Mr. TUCKER, of Philadelphia : This is a question that should take no time. It appeals at once for a favorable consideration. We have been told by Mr. PRICE, in his able paper relative to a better representation in the Board, that this question of immigration is one of the living questions of the day. He has pointed out to us that since 1820 we have greeted on our shores over fourteen million people and that the number now is yearly increasing. In view of this increase and of the importance of the subject, it is none too early for this Board to call the attention of Congress to the question of dealing with the vast concourse that reaches our shores. As Mr. SMITH is prepared to deal more largely with the subject, I will simply move the passage of the resolution and give him the opportunity of advocating it, which I hope he will do strongly.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York : Mr. President and gentlemen, this question came before a body of which I have the honor to be a member last winter and was very ably discussed. A resolution was passed from which I fully disagree. My attention has been called to this question for the last three or four years by a controversy which has existed between the commissioners of immigration of New York and the steamship companies, and also the Secretary of the Treasury. Of course, the steamship companies, all foreign, as you well know, are exceedingly anxious to have a dumping ground for everybody who will pay his passage to our

shores ; and they say that our only remedy, in effect and almost in words, according to a resolution prepared by the managers of one of the great German steamship companies, which is in my possession, is to hang the anarchists, imprison the criminals, and support the paupers. They claim the right to bring them here and set them down on our shores and leave us to take care of them. I think this state of things has gone on about long enough and it is time that a stop should be put to it. The commissioners of immigration for a time claimed the right to send back all persons who could be considered as paupers and all persons known to be criminals. The steamship companies objected to this rule and finally made an arrangement with the Secretary of the Treasury that, upon their giving bonds to support these paupers for one year, in case they became a public charge, they should be allowed to remain and the companies should be absolved from the duty of sending them back. This has been done without cost to the steamship companies, and these immigrants and paupers are scattered all over this broad land and have become inmates of your almshouses and your county asylums from one end of the continent to the other. The commissioners of immigration, with whom the obligation is placed, with whom the bond is given, very seldom, I think only once or twice, have had these people thrown upon their hands. Thus the bond is null and void and of no effect and advantage to the citizens of the United States.

I cannot escape the conviction that the process of emptying foreign prisons and almshouses and filling ours has been going on quite long enough and that it is time to call a halt.

I hold in my hand a copy of a telegram sent by the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Treasury, which I will read :

"I have the honor to inform you that I have just received from the Consul of the United States at Bremen, a communication by telegraph to the effect that Joseph Rippergen and Carl Finsterwalder, assisted ex-convicts, sailed yesterday, the 15th instant, by the steamer Saale, from that port for New York. The Consul further states that these ex-convicts were deported by a benevolent society in Munich. He promises further particulars by mail, but I presume the foregoing will be sufficient to enable the proper officials in New York to detain these men "

The Secretary of the Treasury communicated with the collector of the port of New York, and caused the steamer to be boarded on arrival, and the men were confined on board of this German

Lloyd steamer, and did accompany her on her return trip to the place from whence they came, and we will have two less professional criminals at large amongst us.

Now, it was no part of the duty of the Consul at Bremen either to know these facts, or knowing them to communicate them to Mr. BAYARD, the act being entirely voluntary and extra official on his part.

The report of the Duke of Bedford, published in 1884, shows that during the previous three years the poor law guardians of Ireland had assisted 9,482 paupers to leave Ireland at an average cost of £7 4s 6d, or about \$35.00; an appropriation of £100,000 or about \$500,000 was made by the English Government for this purpose, and on the 7th of May last when 92 of these paupers were challenged by the Commissioners of Immigration, it was made a subject of diplomatic correspondence between Minister WEST and Secretary BAYARD. The Secretary clearly expressed the views of a vast majority of our people, when he stated that persons whose only escape from immediately becoming and remaining a charge upon the community, is the expected, but entirely contingent voluntary help and support of friends, are not a desirable accession to our population, and their exportation hither by a foreign Government in order to get rid of the burden of their support could scarcely be regarded as a friendly act, or in harmony with existing laws.

The whole number of inmates of poorhouses, almshouses, and insane asylums in the State of New York in 1886, was 68,529, of which 27,075 were native born. and 41,454 foreign born. Showing that while there is but one to every 168 native born, there is one to every 35 foreign born, or in round numbers five of every foreign to one of native born.

This does not really prove what appears on the surface: Namely, that there is such a disparity between the two classes of people in their ability to obtain an honest living as the result of toil. But it does show conclusively that the British Isles and Continental Europe have been emptying their asylums and prisons, and filling ours while we have looked on with complacency, and allowed the process to go on, without the slightest effort on our part to prevent it.

And now when public indignation has been aroused, and when restrictive laws are suggested comes this suggestion: That any

laws which would make an examination on the other side necessary, will be found impracticable, inoperative, and too burdensome, and that our only redress is to support the paupers and lunatics, imprison the criminals, and hang the anarchists.

Mr. GUTHRIE, of Buffalo : I offer the following :

*Whereas*, The increasing facilities of transportation render our country continually more and more accessible to the scourings of foreign disease, pauperism and crime; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That preventive measures against this evil should be increased, and that the reception of paupers, helpless invalids and criminals is not a necessary part of our free institutions nor demanded by national hospitality.

I offer this amendment for the purpose of bringing in all the border, as well as the ocean facilities for getting immigrants here. This evil also exists in the northern part of our territory.

Mr. TUCKER, of Philadelphia : I shall be pleased to accept the modification, as it enlarges the scope of the resolution unquestionably.

The proposition as modified was agreed to.

The SECRETARY : The next proposition in order is number II of the Addenda, submitted by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, with the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to remove all duty from timber in the rough.

After a brief discussion it was voted that the consideration of the matter be postponed and that it be placed on the next annual programme of the Board.

The SECRETARY : The next proposition is XII, internal revenue taxes, submitted by the New Haven Chamber of Commerce with the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That we urge upon Congress the total repeal of the internal revenue taxes.

Mr. BARNES, of New Haven: Mr. President and gentlemen, the New Haven Chamber of Commerce has sent up this question to this Board several years in succession, but as yet without being able to get a vote directly on the proposition. It has in previous years been included with the tax on alcohol or with some proposition for a partial reduction in some way or other, so that your Board has decided that they were in favor of the partial reduction of the internal revenue taxes. The Board which I have the honor to represent would like very much to have a vote upon this proposition directly; but by conversation with delegates I feel it cannot be done without a good deal of debate, as there are many men here of many minds. So I wish to state why we think the internal revenue taxes should be abolished and then I will make a motion which no doubt will be agreed to.

We think the internal revenue taxes should be abolished because those taxes were a war measure. They were levied during the war, for the purpose of raising money.

At that time a tax was laid upon nearly every article. It was laid upon incomes, checks, receipts, conveyances, and everything. The duty on tobacco, I think, was thirty-two cents a pound. Those taxes have been wiped out one by one. The tax on tobacco has been reduced twice or three times until now it is eight cents. The policy of Congress has been to reduce these taxes gradually and to take them off. Now, we think the time has come, in view of the amount of the revenues of the country, to repeal the entire revenue tax and to wipe it out. It has been argued that this cannot be done. We would like to have it done gradually, if it cannot be done at once; diminish the tax year by year until it is entirely out of the way. We put the proposition on the broad ground that this was a war tax, and it has been paid cheerfully by the people and would be paid cheerfully by the people for fifty years to come if necessary. It is on that broad ground we ask to have it abolished; also on the other ground that it is foreign to American institutions to have a law on the statute books which requires so much espionage on the part of Government officials upon the business men of the country.

I move that the subject be continued until the next meeting of the Board and that it be placed upon the programme for consideration then.

The motion was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read proposition XIII, ocean steam navigation, submitted by the Philadelphia Board of Trade with the following resolution :

*Whereas*, The commercial steam marine of the United States, to foreign parts, can only be made to succeed by the same means that have made that of other nations successful ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That subsidies similar to those allowed by other nations should be granted to American steamships for carrying the United States mails.

*Resolved*, That these subsidies and every other proper means should be adopted by Congressional legislation for the purpose of aiding our merchants to compete on equal terms for the South American trade.

Mr. JANNEY, of Philadelphia : Mr. President, subjects XIII and XIV are quite similar and, I have consulted with the delegates from the New York Board of Trade and Transportation and they agree to the consideration of these two subjects together.

The PRESIDENT : If there be no objection, subjects XIII and XIV will be considered together.

The SECRETARY read subject XIV, the American Marine, proposed by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation with the following resolution :

*Whereas*, With the extension of steam and electric communication, the field for American products and manufactures is the world :

*Resolved*, That our Government should follow the example of leading commercial nations, in encouraging the establishment of regular and frequent communication by means of American steamship lines, and to this end should recognize the same principle on the ocean which has proven so successful in increasing the efficiency of our postal service on land ; viz. : paying a fair price for a fair service, irrespective of the amount of postage collected on any particular route.

*And be it further Resolved*, That every legitimate means to foster our merchant marine should be used, including the enactment of the law now pending in Congress, popularly known as the Tonnage Bill, applying alike to sail and steam vessels engaged in foreign commerce.

Mr. DRIER, of Chicago: I would move to amend the resolution offered by the Philadelphia Board of Trade by the substitution of the word "freedom" for the word "subsidy" wherever it occurs.

Mr. JANNEY: We propose to take the whole of the resolution of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, strike out the preamble and the first resolution of the New York Board of Trade and add the last resolution, beginning "And be it further resolved."

Mr. WALDO SMITH: That will be satisfactory to the New York Board of Trade and Transportation.

Mr. DRIER: I believe that what we need is not subsidy. It is simply the right to own, build and buy steamships. Subsidies will not help us because the burden thrown upon American tonnage is already so great that no subsidies would effect any improvement of our Merchant Marine.

Mr. WEISSINGER, of Louisville: I do hope the gentleman from Pennsylvania will not press this important resolution at this late hour of the session. I regard it as one of the most important and certainly the most comprehensive, and involving more questions requiring discussion than any subject that has been presented before this Board. For my part, I am not in sympathy or accord with the resolution in any form. While that is true, I am not thoroughly prepared to discuss the matter intelligently. I do hope that a question of such magnitude will not be pressed at this late hour of the session, when gentlemen who may be in opposition to it will not have an opportunity to properly present their views. We have elected a new administration. Let us give them a chance and let them go ahead without too much advice. Let us see what they are going to do. There will be time enough at our next meeting to bring these matters up. I do hope the question will not be pressed.

Mr. JANNEY, of Philadelphia: Mr. President, Mr. WEISSINGER was not present at the last meeting of the National Board of Trade. This subject was then very fully discussed and it received an almost unanimous vote.

In support of the resolutions I beg to say that the word subsidies, which the Philadelphia Board of Trade use in their resolu-

tions, to many minds seem like a synonym with fraud, particularly so, when it is used in asking Government aid for the Merchant Marine of the United States, but this is a definition so unfair that little will refute it. Should Congress concede the aid so often asked for, then that large class of citizens who go down to the sea, who build and sail ships, would again be able to compete for their share of the carrying trade of the commerce of the world. The resolutions ask only that which other nations give, and they give it and have given it with no niggardly hand,— why should not aid in some shape be extended to the Merchant Marine of this country? As a carrier of commerce, it was once supreme, and it was then one of the proud boasts of the people of this land. We learn by example. One notable example is that of Great Britain, which in thirty-four or thirty-five years, from 1848 to 1882 paid to its Merchant Marine for services of various kinds, in round figures \$165,250,000, averaging more than \$4,500,000 per annum. In six years of that period from 1860 to 1865 inclusive, Great Britain paid in subsidies \$25,831,718. That period was a most memorable one in the history of the United States, and it was in that period the decadence in the carrying trade of this country began and continued.

From 1857 to 1859 inclusive, three years, the value of imports and exports carried in American ships was \$1,423,263,712; during the same period the value of imports and exports carried in foreign ships was \$603,400,274. This was the condition of the carrying trade of the Merchant Marine of the United States. But travelling along the same road of examination we find twenty-three years later, down to 1882, the figures lamentably reversed, American ships carrying in that year imports and exports \$242,850,815 while foreign ships carried in that same year \$1,284,488,861.

I do not mean to say that nonpayment of subsidies by our Government, or the payment of subsidies by other Governments, were the sole causes of this reversal and decadence. There were other potent causes; the change from sails to steam, from wooden sailing ships to iron sailing ships, from wooden vessels of small tonnage to iron steamships carrying thousands of tons, and other causes did, and do exist; but I mean to say, that the continued payment of these great subsidies by other Governments was a large factor towards placing our Merchant Marine, in its present



unpleasant and unhealthy condition. I believe if the Government can be induced by any argument to lend its support to American shipping, one of two things will be made manifest, either it will regain its former supremacy, or it will be able to compete fully with any other nation for the carrying trade of the world. I hope these resolutions will be endorsed by this body and I hope they will pass unanimously.

Mr. GOODALE, of Cincinnati: In reply to the gentleman from Chicago (Mr. DREIER) I simply rise to state that the proceedings of last year will show the treatment of the case last year in a very exhaustive manner. A similar proposition came up and was discussed very thoroughly. Gentlemen from Chicago, Senator DOLPH, of Oregon and one or two others took an active part in the discussion; also Mr. WETHERILL and Mr. SNOW. They took up the subject in all its details. It was then endorsed by a close vote, I think about two-thirds. It was discussed simply from the standpoint of protection to our American commerce. I think if the gentleman will read the resolutions through, he will not insist upon the amendment of inserting "freedom" in place of "subsidies." This is a proposition which comes home to every citizen of the United States. We are all interested in the protection of our American commerce. I think the passage of the resolutions is one of the happiest ways of reaching a conclusion that will be a benefit to that very large class of American citizens, American shippers.

Mr. COWAN, of Louisville: Personally I am in favor of subsidizing every American line of communication with foreign countries, if it be necessary, to establish that line upon a basis that will enable the manufacturers of this country to reach the markets of the world. I think the question is a very large one, and the proposition which has been made to consider the resolutions of the Philadelphia Board of Trade and the New York Board of Trade together, complicates the matter and makes it a little difficult. I would therefore offer as a substitute for both resolutions the following:

*Whereas*, With the extension of steam and electric communication, the field for American products and manufactures is the world,

*Resolved*, That our Government should follow the example of the leading commercial nations in encouraging the establishment of regular and

frequent communication, by means of American steamship lines, with foreign countries, and that every legitimate means to foster our Merchant Marine should be used.

Mr. LIONBERGER, of St. Louis: If I may offer an amendment to the amendment, I would move that all the preamble be stricken out, and that we confine ourselves to this simple resolution:

*Resolved*, That every legitimate means to foster our Merchant Marine should be adopted by Congress.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, perhaps there are many gentlemen here who do not know what the last clause in the resolution of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation refers to. There has been a Bill before Congress for a number of years, upon which we have been endeavoring to get action by the appropriate Committee, but have failed. We have come within one of succeeding, in the Committee, a number of times. It is called the thirty cents Bill. I think it has never been introduced, but it has been before the Committee year after year, and I think upon every vote we have lacked one, if I remember rightly. That Bill gives every vessel sailing from an American to a foreign port thirty cents a ton for every thousand miles sailed. That is the main feature of this resolution and the only one of real importance. That is the gist of the whole thing. If we can get any Bill passed, we can get that Bill passed. That is the only just and equitable Bill I have ever known anything about.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: I am rather sorry this question has been brought up again. I think in looking back over the proceedings of this Board for the last twenty years it has been up fifteen times. I think in 1879, when the Board met in Milwaukee it was under discussion. It has been discussed so much that I think it is like beating old straw over again. Three years ago those who were opposed to this measure, Mr. HOLTON, of Milwaukee, Mr. McLAREN and others, voted for it so that it would be unanimous, and be removed from the further discussions of this Board; but that unanimous vote seems to do no good in Congress and we are back here discussing the whole matter again. I think gentlemen who are in favor of this measure had better vote with the other side this time, and make it unanimous the other way, and see how it will go. I recollect our worthy president, Mr.

FRALEY, issued a dispensation to Mr. HOLTON, of Milwaukee, forgiving him for voting against his convictions, because it was so worthy a subject. Now we will issue a dispensation to the other side to vote with us this time. There is no question that our commerce is getting worse and worse every year. Now twenty-one per cent. of the goods imported come in American vessels, and seventy-nine in foreign vessels. Ever since the war commenced it has been getting worse and worse. I question whether merely subsidizing a line or two of steamships will have any effect in restoring our commerce. The question of subsidizing a line to South America is mentioned in the resolution. I was looking over the statistics of South American trade and found that our neighbors imported into this country annually ninety-eight million dollars' worth of goods and took away thirty-eight million dollars in our goods. It seems to me they found ships enough to carry that one hundred million dollars' worth of goods here; and it seems to me if they wanted to take our goods away they would be able to take them away in the same ships which brought their goods here; but for some reason or other they bring three times as many goods here as they take away.

There is another point I desire to bring to the attention of the Board. We do not want the trade of other countries apparently. We erect barriers between ourselves and foreign nations in regard to trade, with one hand, and knock a hole through the wall with the other and start out a steamship. We cannot expect that plan to succeed. I believe our policy is openly proclaimed as being adverse to too much foreign trade. We do not want to encourage foreign trade. Every steamship that comes here is considered as an invader of our shores. Why we should want to start a line and promote foreign trade I cannot see. Supposing citizens of the Argentine Republic or Chili or Uruguay or some of the South American countries where they raise large quantities of wool, come to New York with a ship load of wool. They say, "we hear you Americans are very ingenious people. You are great manufacturers and can make fine cloth out of wool. We will bring a few cargoes of wool and ask you to make it into cloth, and in six months we will come back for the cloth." The New York custom house officers say, "we will confiscate half of your wool. We do not want your wool. We raise all the wool we want." So they take the wool over to England and there their

clothing is manufactured and they go for it afterwards. I do not see if we adopt a policy of this kind, what is the use of starting out a steamship line or two. I think we ought to be consistent. We ought either to say we do not want foreign trade, or else we ought to do all we can to encourage it. I think if we want our Mercantile Marine to succeed, in a free country, with a Declaration of Independence which says every man shall be allowed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, if it is necessary for my happiness to buy a steamship or a sailing ship abroad I should be allowed to do it. But as the laws are now, I should be treated as a malefactor of the deepest dye, if I should go to Europe and buy a ship and propose to register her under our flag. I might bring dynamite here or infernal machines of all kinds, but I must not bring a ship.

My idea is that it would be very much better to memorialize Congress that Americans may be allowed to buy steamships or sailing vessels abroad; and if that is allowed, by and by we might get to be quite a vessel owning country. We would want to repair our vessels at home and gradually we might work back to the position we held thirty or forty years ago. There was a time when there would be one hundred and fifty or two hundred ships in Liverpool flying the stars and stripes. Now sometimes there is not a single one. I heard General LEW WALLACE at a dinner in Paris, in 1884, when he was on his way home from duty as minister to Constantinople, make a remark which I remember well. Mr. McLANE, the new minister and Mr. MORRIS the old minister, received a dinner in Paris and General WALLACE was invited to speak. He said he had been in Constantinople four years and during that time he had seen the American flag twice, once upon a revenue cutter, and the other time upon a gentleman's yacht. Constantinople is the great commercial center of the East, and yet he only saw the American flag twice in four years. It is a shame and a disgrace. Merely starting a steamship line or two is not going to remedy the evil. I think we want more freedom. If we cannot build ships we ought to be allowed to buy them somewhere.

Lock a man in a room, tie his hands and feet, and he will be in a bad position. Suppose you then say, "we will give him a little stimulant, and that will do him good." It does not do him any good. Untie his hands, unbind his feet, knock the walls down and give him fresh air. Then he will take care of himself.

You may stimulate a steamship line and start it, but that is not going to restore American commerce. I think it is a mistake to bring up this resolution, but if it is pressed to a vote, I, for one, must vote against it. The Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce five years ago resolved unanimously, while they were in favor of restoring American commerce by every legitimate means, that they were not in favor of taking any money from the national treasury to do it. There are lots of poor railroad lines out here carrying the mails between towns, railroad lines that do not pay any dividends to stockholders. I think we had better resolve that whereas such and such a railroad is of great importance in carrying the mails between this town and the other, that the national treasury be required to provide money for the efficient carrying of the mails between those two towns. I do not think we would vote for such a proposition and I think the case of the steamship lines is similar. If we adopt this proposition, we may help a few individuals, but I am sure it will be a complete failure so far as the restoration of American commerce is concerned.

If you will investigate what has made the commerce of Great Britain, you will find that subsidizing steamship lines had mighty little to do with it. The commerce of Great Britain has quadrupled since the repeal of the navigation laws. The mere subsidizing of two or three steamship lines can do little good. Besides, Great Britain has quit doing any subsidizing to speak of. I believe she gives the carrying of the mails to the lowest bidder. I think a German line is subsidized by the English Government, and I think an American line which would come within the regulations might get a subsidy. I think Great Britain pays no more than the work is worth. Subsidizing is largely a political measure as well as a commercial measure. We built the Union Pacific Railroad more as a political measure to bind California to this country than for any other purpose.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: The details of the question before the Board have been discussed and have been passed upon, and favorably passed upon. There seems to be nothing left to us but to pass upon the general question which is embodied in the resolution of the gentleman from Louisville (Mr. COWAN). On this I think we can agree and avoid the time and labor of discussing details. I ask my friend from Philadelphia and my other friend

from New York to accept, on this occasion, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisville and let us pass upon it, as I trust we shall, favorably, and proceed to other business.

The PRESIDENT: Will the gentleman from Louisville please read the proposition which he offers as a substitute for the resolutions from the Philadelphia Board of Trade and the New York Board of Trade and Transportation.

Mr. COWAN: Before reading it, I will simply say I hope my friend, Mr. JOHNSTON, who, if his accent does not belie him, was born where I was and is enjoying the benefits of the United States of America as I have been during a part of my life, is ready and prepared to vote for the resolution as I submit it.

Mr. COWAN then read his proposition.

Mr. WALDO SMITH: On behalf of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, I will consent to the acceptance of Mr. COWAN's proposition, if it can be passed without the expenditure of more time.

Mr. LIONBERGER: I offer the following as a substitute:

*Resolved*, That every legitimate means to foster our Merchant Marine should be adopted by Congress.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: I don't think there can be any objection to that.

Mr. COWAN: I will withdraw my proposition. That is entirely satisfactory to me.

Mr. WALDO SMITH: I will accept the substitute of Mr. LIONBERGER.

Mr. JANNEY: Philadelphia will accept that.

The PRESIDENT: That simplifies the matter, gentlemen. The proposition before the Board is the resolution offered upon this subject by the gentleman from St. Louis. Mr. LIONBERGER.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XV, from the Philadelphia Board of Trade, with the following resolution :

*Whereas*, The present coinage of silver dollars, in connection with other forms of currency, is sufficient for all the requirements of the domestic trade and commerce of the United States; and

*Whereas*, The profits which result from this coinage and which are counted as part of the annual income of the Government are not a legitimate source of revenue under the Constitution of the United States; and

*Whereas*, When the condition of foreign exchanges may require the export of precious metals, these dollars cannot, on account of their over valuation, be sent abroad without ruinous loss to all classes of the population; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Congress should be memorialized to provide by law for the suspension of the purchase of silver bullion and of the coinage of silver dollars.

Mr. LIONBERGER: I move that the consideration of the matter be postponed.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago: I second the motion. It has come to my knowledge recently that the British Government, through its Committee on Currency, are about to propose the holding of an international convention for the establishment of a bi-metallic system of exchanges. I think it would be very ill-timed just now for this Board to adopt that resolution. I would prefer to wait and see the result of the movement that has already been made abroad.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: Excuse me if I say to my friend from Chicago that I am informed from a source that is entitled to the very highest credit, that the fact that our Government is going on with the monthly coinage of the silver dollars is a serious bar to the adoption of an international system of bi-metallism. Consequently, as this resolution conforms entirely to the action of the National Board of Trade heretofore, and the matter has been widely discussed in all its bearings, I want to state that circumstance. My information is late and by a gentleman who is in close communication with parties in Europe who are likely to take action upon this question. The fact that the

United States Government continues the coinage of the silver dollar is a very serious bar to the perfection of the system.

The PRESIDENT: Before the question is taken, I will, if you will permit me, call Mr. How to the Chair and say a few words on this subject.

Mr. How then took the Chair.

Mr. FRALEY: This Board has, ever since the passage of the act requiring the coinage of silver dollars, declared against a continuance of such coinage. We have now a vast amount of those dollars piled up in the Treasury of the United States, and we are continuing the purchase of silver bullion at the rate of two to three million dollars a month for the purpose of going on with that coinage. When the act of 1878 was passed, it was passed in connection with a proposition that there should be an international conference on the subject, fixing the relation between silver and gold, and in the hope that out of such an international conference some uniform agreement could be reached as to the relative valuation of these metals. No such conference has ever been successful, and our Government has gone on coining these dollars with the result indicated in the resolution from the Philadelphia Board of Trade. The profit upon the coinage of these dollars up to the present time amounts to about \$60,000,000, constituting at the present time, probably, seventy-five per cent. of the whole surplus in the Treasury of the United States. If the coinage of these dollars is persisted in, there is an annual nominal profit to the Government of the United States of about \$500,000 per month. If, therefore, this coinage of silver dollars is to go on without limit, if those dollars are to be continued as a legal tender for the payment of all debts, public and private, in the United States, I think it is evident to every reflecting mind that the end will be a currency as much debased in its character as we have ever had under a suspension of specie payment. For whether you consider a banknote, upon which you cannot realize more than fifty cents on the dollar, to be debased currency or not, it is manifest that whenever you undertake to use a silver token for one hundred cents that is not worth more than fifty cents, you will have just as much a debased currency in the silver money as you have had in the paper money.



So long as the interchange of these dollars is confined within the territory of the United States, the pressure of this debasement rests equally upon all our citizens. The moment the time comes when, in the commercial transactions of the country the exchanges are against the United States, and there is a balance to be paid in specie, these dollars will not command abroad what we consider one hundred cents at the present time. If you were to send one thousand of these standard dollars of the United States abroad to pay a debt in London, the one thousand dollars would only produce there seven hundred and fifty dollars. It seems to me that as we have fully supplied the wants of our own people with this silver money, we ought not to put ourselves in a position where, by a change in the foreign exchanges of the country, we should be called upon to export these dollars so that the people of the United States who hold them would have to submit to the immense loss which would attend their exportation abroad. It was for this purpose, to stop such a condition of things that, when the the proposition upon the programme was offered through the Philadelphia Board of Trade, it had my hearty support. I believe it is a measure which is called for by the best interests of our country.

You will recollect, gentlemen, that ever since that law went into effect and ever since it was found impossible to produce a consensus of the great nations of the world upon this subject of an adjusted relation of silver to gold, every Secretary of the Treasury, every President of the United States, has recommended to Congress that the coinage of these silver dollars should be suspended. I have in my possession a table showing the value of these dollars according to the price of bar silver in London, at the present time. The bar value of silver in London, which is about three per cent. finer than our own standard silver, is forty-three pence sterling, making the value of the silver in our dollar about seventy-five cents.

Now, as this Board has, from the time of the passage of that law, in 1878, recommended that the coinage of these dollars should be suspended, I had hoped when the subject was presented to the Board in the shape in which I have indicated that the people of these United States are subjected to what is, practically, a tax of \$12,000,000 a year by the coinage of these dollars, it would agree to say it was time to stop the coinage and to be contented with the immense amount we now have already coined, a

large proportion of which is piled up in the vaults of the Treasury and represented by what are called silver certificates. These silver certificates are not legal tender for the payment of any debt, but they are convertible into silver dollars at the will of the holder and, practically, they may therefore be considered as a legal tender. You all understand that every day and every hour they are passing from hand to hand just as the silver dollars pass. I had hoped, therefore, gentlemen, that this subject would again receive the approval of the Board. I am very sorry to have troubled you, but I thought before taking the question upon postponement, I would, at least, present to the Board the reasons which influenced the Philadelphia Board of Trade and which influence me, personally, to favor the adoption of the proposition which we have placed upon the programme. (Applause.)

Mr. FRALEY then resumed the Chair.

Mr. POPE, of Chicago: Before the vote is taken, I would like to ask if I am correct as to the information which reaches me through the New York Shipping List or the New York Bulletin? I read in one or the other of those papers, that official action had recently been taken by the English Government, which has heretofore stood in our way, recommending an international Congress for the consideration of this question of the bi-metallic standard. If the English people have reached that conclusion, if they have arrived at a point which our President has informed us was in the mind of Congress when the law of 1878 was adopted, might it not be embarrassing for us now to act upon this resolution in the affirmative? I did so read such a statement within the last thirty days. I would like to be informed if any gentleman present knows whether or not such action has already been taken. Heretofore I have voted in the affirmative in regard to this resolution and I have listened with deep interest to all our venerable and respected President has said. It does not become me to offer one word in opposition to the argument he has made. I do not rise to discuss the matter further. I know it is a two sided question. I rise to ask for information as to whether the English Government has recently taken official action.

Mr. DRIER, of Chicago: I read substantially what the gentleman is speaking of, but I understand it this way: That the

English Commission has made a report and that they were equally divided; and the comment of the London papers was that they hoped England would consent to a conference on this subject. I have not seen anything positive in regard to action taken by the Government.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO: The statements of the gentleman I believe are substantially correct. The Commission of the English Government appointed to consider this matter have reported favorably to bi-metallism. There have been some important conversions of men who were heretofore opposed to bi-metallism. As I said, not long ago I was in communication with a gentleman of our country who has perhaps done more than any other one man in favor of bi-metallism internationally. He I believe is now in Europe, or has recently been. He has labored for many years and perhaps has done more work upon this question than any other man living. That gentleman informed me, as he has frequently done before, that the fact that our system of compulsory coinage was kept up, was a bar to the fair consideration and adoption of any reform measures in foreign countries. I made that statement somewhat informally a few moments ago and I repeat it now. I feel if we take any action on this matter at all, it should be in conformity with our action heretofore taken, which was taken upon full discussion. The same facts bear upon the subject now as before.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: I hope the motion to postpone this resolution will not prevail; for if it does it will carry an implication that the National Board of Trade is not in favor of the establishment of an honest dollar. The postponement of this question is virtually its defeat. The significance of it will be a little short of a negative vote upon the main proposition. While I am in sympathy with the bi-metallic theory which is in course of arrangement between the several European nations in connection with our own, and believe it will ultimately prevail and desire that it shall, yet I do not believe any bi-metallic convention or agreement that may be arranged between the several nations referred to will ever make a seventy-five cent dollar worth one hundred cents. The first important step toward the accomplishment of the adoption of the bi-metallic theory, it seems to me, is to issue an honest dollar, that every nation in the world will accept and recognize as a dollar, and which can be made interchangeable in

all the business relations of the various nations of the world. For this reason I hope the motion to postpone will not prevail, that the original motion may be adopted, and that the previous action of this Board in favor of an honest dollar will thus be emphasized and carry its proper weight.

The PRESIDENT : The question is on the motion to postpone.

The question being put the Chair was in doubt as to the result, and a division was called for. The Board divided and there were ayes, 13 ; noes, 31. So the motion to postpone was lost.

The question was then taken on agreeing to the resolution. The Board again divided and there were ayes, 31 ; noes, 13. So the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. COLEMAN, of New Orleans : Mr. President I ask to be put on record as voting against the resolution and in favor of the postponement.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XVI, Basis for National Banking, proposed by the Philadelphia Board of Trade, with the following resolution :

*Whereas*, The National Banking System provides a stable and uniform currency, and by diminishing the cost of Internal Exchange, greatly benefits all classes of the community ; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we solicit Congress to make such an adjustment of the remaining National Bonds as will provide an adequate security and permit an extension of the life of the National Banks.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The SECRETARY read proposition III of the Addenda, submitted by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, with the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its President to consider and report upon the feasibility

ity and practicability of the establishment of a National Clearing House Association for banks, under the direction and control of local clearing house associations in the various cities of the United States.

Mr. JOHN A. GANO, of Cincinnati: This matter has been before the Board, I believe, once previously. The proposition is that a Committee be appointed to consider the feasibility and practicability of such an organization; the idea being that a national clearing house association for banks will tend to simplify business intercommunication between the cities of the country and will tend largely to effect a conservatism in regard to the management of the banking interests of the country. Consequently it is proposed that this Committee be appointed, to consider the feasibility and practicability of such an organization, such Committee to report hereafter. It cannot of course report at this session of the Board. It seems to us to be an extremely important matter, and deserving of serious consideration.

Mr. LIONBERGER: Mr. President, I desire to say before the question is put that it seems to me we are encroaching somewhat upon the matters that pertain more especially to banks. There is a National Bankers' Association, and anything pertaining to the business of clearing would naturally come under the direction and supervision of that body of gentlemen. I believe we did by our action yesterday appoint a Committee to confer with the Committee of the Bar Association where legal matters were involved. Now the question is whether it would not be wiser to appoint a Committee to confer with the National Bankers' Association, to see if steps can be taken to accomplish the end in view.

Mr. STRANAHAN, of New York: I suppose, Mr. President, that the Committee if appointed will be competent to confer with the organization the gentleman speaks of, and also to confer with other organizations. It is but a Committee of inquiry, to report to us at a future meeting, and as a matter of courtesy we generally award to a respectable number of gentlemen the privilege of making inquiries and submitting the substance of those inquiries to this Board. That is all there is to it.

Mr. DRIER: I have had some experience with the banking business. Knowing something about the business I believe such

a scheme entirely impracticable. I think it will be a waste of time for us to consider the matter at all or burden the Committee with work in that direction; because the National Bankers' Association would take the matter up, if there were any practical benefit to be derived from it. For that reason I hope we will vote against this resolution and save ourselves time and labor.

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. President, we are eliciting information and valuable information; but it will do us no harm to have further information which can be given us through this medium of inquiry. I trust we will have the Committee appointed as desired.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XVII, Commercial Union with Canada, submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, without a resolution.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, in the absence of my colleague, Mr. ERASTUS WIMAN, who is the chief advocate of this measure, I ask leave to have it placed upon the programme for next year.

The permission was granted.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XVIII, Letter Postage, submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, with the following resolution:

*Whereas*, The usefulness of our postal system depends in a great degree upon its cheapness; and

*Whereas*, Each successive reduction in the rate of postage has within a short time developed an astonishing increase of business and enhanced the usefulness of our postal system to the people; and

*Whereas*, A bill is now pending in Congress reducing letter postage to one cent;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade favors the passage of said bill, believing that even if it should result in a temporary deficit in our postal department, the revenues of the nation justify it.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President, I greatly regret the absence of my honored chief, Captain AMBROSE SNOW, who is detained at home by illness. We miss his benevolent, kindly face, and his thoughtful and wise words. I regret I am placed in a prominence here which in no way belongs to me. I am not particularly familiar with this question. We all know that every reduction in the charge for postage has led to a large increase of business, and finally to compensation for the service performed by this increase. I have no disposition to argue this question. If it presents itself to the minds of the gentlemen as one that they can pass unanimously, I shall be glad to have them do so. My own opinion is that it is an exceedingly important measure and will commend itself not only to the merchants of America but to the poor of America, to all people in private life. I think we can safely vote for it. I move its adoption.

Mr. ROBY, of Rochester: Gentlemen, this is a subject I have felt a great deal of interest in, and if I thought the resolution would pass without objection I would not say a word.

It was one of the planks in the Republican platform, that letter postage should be reduced to one cent for one ounce; therefore now that party is in power it may be considered that further agitation of this subject is unnecessary and that it may be relied on, this boon to the people will speedily be conferred upon them. However, as it is one of the subjects on the programme for discussion, it is perhaps not out of place that a few of the reasons that have impelled those who have interested themselves in the effort to bring about this result, should be given. It may be said that the reason above all others why this legislation was asked for, was the condition of the National finances. It has been claimed by Democrats and admitted by Republicans, that there is and has been for a long time an unnecessarily large surplus of money in the Treasury which it is generally believed is being added to at the rate of \$10,000,000 per month. The dilemma was stated truly by Mr. CLEVELAND in his message to Congress in the fall of 1887, that it was a condition by which the Government was confronted; and the question then was and is now, how shall that condition be changed with the least disturbance to the business interests of the people? Is there any way that is so little objectionable as this? Would any business or any individual be affected otherwise than beneficially?

Mr. DRIER, of Chicago: I do not believe there will be the slightest advantage to anybody in the way of cheaper postage, because I believe our postage is cheap enough now. I believe we would incur a deficit in the Treasury inevitably, if we reduced postage to one cent, and this would result in taxation which falls on everybody, while the benefit would be given but to a few. Who would derive the benefit from still cheaper postage, but parties who had a great deal of advertising matter, circulars, etc., to disseminate among their customers or among the trade. Those who partake of the general payment of taxes and have but few letters to write would have no benefit from this reduction whatever. I do not believe on any ground there is any justification for still further reducing the postage.

Mr. ROBY: If you will permit me, I would like to correct some of the statements of the gentleman. Mr. VILAS, in his report to the last Congress, went on to show how immediately in the preceding years the Department had been growing more and more self-sustaining at the rate of about three or four million dollars per year; and he predicted that the year ending July, 1888, would show an actual surplus in the Treasury; and that at this time we are absolutely earning more than is necessary to carry on the business of the Department. This proposition is not for a reduction of postage on circulars or any business matters. It is for letter postage simply, a matter in which every citizen must be interested. The poor man with a large family of children growing up and being educated, is greatly interested in this question. If his wages are low, every letter that he writes is an unnecessary tax of one cent upon him. It is unnecessary, it is improper and it ought to be abolished.

The question was put on the adoption of the resolution and a division was called for. The Board divided and there were ayes, 26; noes, 13. So the resolution was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XIX, Rights under Bills of Lading, from the Chicago Board of Trade, with the following resolution:



*Whereas*, There are many different forms used for consigning property ; and,

*Whereas*, It is necessary to establish the rights of the holders of bills of lading, and also the common carrier's liability thereunder ;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade requests the Congress of the United States to amend the Inter-State Commerce Act so that all common carriers subject to the provisions of said act shall, upon the request of the consignor, make their contract or bill of lading for property to be transported,

To the order of . . . . .  
Notify . . . . .

and to further legalize this form of consignment, it shall be unlawful for any common carriers to make delivery of property so consigned, except upon the return of the contract or bill of lading covering the same, properly endorsed.

Mr. SIDWELL, of Chicago: Mr. President, the reason for presenting this resolution is set forth I think in the preamble. The desire is that there shall be uniformity in this matter, and that the rights of the holders of bills of lading and those issuing them shall be clearly defined. In our own State the law is explicit on this point and the custom in our own city is equally binding ; but in some other States there is a little different rule in force. Our desire is that the rights of the parties under these forms of bills of lading shall be clearly defined, and, as I said before, that a uniformity of practice under those rights shall grow up, so that each party will know his rights clearly, and there shall be no conflict or clashing of interests in the matter.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I second the motion for the adoption of the proposition. I am heartily in favor of it.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Uniformity of Laws was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XXI, United States Naval Reserve, submitted by the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, with the following resolution :

*Resolved,* Resolved that the National Board of Trade favors the proposition to organize a naval reserve for the United States, to consist of officers and men from the mercantile marine, yachtsmen, ex-naval and ex-marine-revenue officers and watermen generally, and of vessels to be built with reference to their use in the time of war as auxiliary to the regular navy.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: Mr. President and gentlemen, this is entirely a new subject. If I understand it, it has never been before this Board. It has had very little discussion, and I have seen very few notices of it in the public press. Perhaps a few words of explanation, as they may be found in the report accompanying a bill as submitted by Mr. WHITTHORNE, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, will be interesting and in place.

Mr. WALDO SMITH read a few of the passages from this report.

The bill calls for an appropriation of a million dollars for carrying out this object. It goes on further to state that the sum of a quarter of a million will be all that will be probably used for this purpose for a large number of years, or until time of war. I have read the bill very carefully. It commends itself to my judgment. I am quite certain it is in the interest of a navy which, at slight expense will correspond to our militia in the various States and I am quite certain you will agree with me it is a measure that should be carried out by Congress at the earliest possible moment. It will afford great auxiliary power to our navy, both in men, trained officers and ships, at but slight expense, that our Government could call upon at any moment for aid. With these few remarks, and without burdening you any further, I move the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. HOLLOWAY, of Cincinnati: I am thoroughly in favor of the appropriation of money for the betterment of our coast defences and to increase the navy, and even to inaugurate a naval militia. Therefore, I second the motion.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee: Mr. President, I think we are going into too many things. Let us stop at regulating the trade of the country, without undertaking to run the army and navy.

If we attend to the trade of the country I think we will do all that is expected of us. I think it is out of place for us to consider this resolution. I would like either to see it postponed until next year or else laid on the table altogether. We will lose our influence if we go into everything of this kind. It is a very intricate and complicated business. We are merchants, bankers, manufacturers and traders, and if we undertake the management simply of our own affairs I believe we will be perfectly safe. I do not think there is any country in the world, or any combination of countries, that would dare to attack the United States of America. I believe there is no need for this National Board of Trade to take any action whatever in favor of a naval militia.

Mr. WEISSINGER, of Louisville: I rise to a point of order. Preliminary thereto I will ask the SECRETARY to read the declaration as to the objects of this Board.

The SECRETARY read the declaration.

Mr. WEISSINGER: I submit whether or not the question before the Board is not purely a political one; that it is not either financial, commercial or industrial. I ask the opinion of the Chair whether that resolution can properly come before this body.

The PRESIDENT: I would decide that the resolution is in order.

Mr. MAGDEBURG, of Milwaukee: It appears to me Mr. President and gentlemen, that of late there has been a sentiment growing up in this country rather alarming in its nature. Many men see war where most of us do not see any, and wish to prepare for war when there is really no necessity. I am a man of peace, though at one time I did serve in the army. I believe this nation is a peaceful nation. We are a commercial nation. We are strong in ourselves. I cannot see the necessity for this Board of Trade to make a recommendation to Congress to establish a naval reserve. I agree entirely with my colleague, Mr. JOHNSTON, of Milwaukee, that we are abundantly strong and able to take care of ourselves, should we be attacked. I see, however, no immediate cause for attack by any nation, nor do I think that any nation or any number of nations will attack us for any purpose. I therefore hope the gentlemen present will vote against

this resolution, which will only result in saddling additional expense upon the nation, without any immediate benefits that I can see.

Mr. WALDO SMITH, of New York: I ask leave to say another word on this question. I sailed out of the harbor of San Francisco not long since and General HOWARD stood by my side, the commander of the Pacific division. He said "I am here in command of the Pacific coast. I have these fortifications and I have these few soldiers. There are ten powers," naming them, "which can send a ship right up here in front of San Francisco at any moment and bombard San Francisco, and I should be utterly helpless to prevent it. I have no power to prevent Chili or Japan or China, sending a ship right up in front of San Francisco and destroying the whole city, or laying it under tribute of millions and millions of money." Should that condition of affairs threaten without some effort to prevent it? Gentlemen say we are in no danger of war. It is an old saying, and I repeat nothing you are not familiar with, when I say, "In time of peace prepare for war." I was talking with a gentleman on this question and he said "This is a Christian age, it is an age of peace. It is not an age of warfare." I said to him, "The age has not differed very much from other ages, in twenty years." I held this conversation some time ago, and only a few days after I saw in the steeple of St. Michael's Church, Charleston, several miles from where the Swamp Angel laid, some big balls that had been fired at it from our own guns. I say it is not an age of peace altogether. Before another year is over, we may have a great war upon our hands. We never know when the cloud is going to burst. We do not know anything about it. But we do know if we are prepared to meet and avert the great calamity it will be better for us. No nation will attack us if they know we are prepared to a certain extent. I would deprecate as much as any individual, large standing armies and great navies at a great expense; but I do believe in such preparation as this, that can be made with slight expense and will besides give an impetus to the building of a certain class of ships that we want very much, and will train our Merchant Marine, men, officers and engineers to just this kind of work. When the last war came upon us, if we had had thirty or forty or fifty fleet vessels built so that they

could be converted into war vessels in a short time, if we had had a few thousand men enrolled as captains, lieutenants, sailors and engineers, what a wonderful help it would have been to us.

Mr. BARNES, of New Haven: Gentlemen, I have never served in the army, but for twelve years I was a member of the National Guard of Connecticut. Connecticut spends one hundred thousand dollars a year on about two thousand men, for what purpose? As the right arm of the Government to be called upon in case of need. They are ready there, at the call of the General Government to go into service. The State of Connecticut keeps those men for use in case of war. In case of war, whom would we have to fight? It would not be the army, the infantry, the cavalry, or the artillery of foreign countries, but their navies we would have to fight. Their ships of war would come here. So I say the idea that we would have to use our infantry is very remote. The very first call would be upon our navy. I consider this Bill one of the best bills that could be passed. It will provide a navy that will be prepared, a volunteer reserve that can be called upon in case of war. I do not expect and do not think we shall see any war in this country for many years; but gentlemen must recollect that according to the experience of the past the time is not far distant when war is due. There is a certain cycle of time when we have wars and rumors of wars. It has been some time since this situation existed, and we cannot tell when it will come about again. I am heartily in favor of this Bill. In New Haven there is a club, a small yacht club. The vessels are small but the members of that yacht club are very enthusiastic about this Bill, because they believe that their young men will enlist in this reserve and it will give the country greater protection. Our Chamber is very much in favor of this Bill.

Mr. WEISSINGER, of Louisville: With great respect to the representative from the great city of New York I beg to say it does not follow because a gentleman votes against this Bill he does not love his country, nor does it follow that every lover of his country ought to vote for this Bill. I yield to no man in patriotism for my country. The point I make is this: This Bill is political. If we undertake too much, if we undertake to sweep over the whole creation and pass resolutions about everything

and everybody, our resolutions will not have the desired effect. If we confine our efforts to a few subjects and pass timely resolutions and provide some means by which the sentiments as expressed by this Board of Trade can be impressed on the legislative bodies of the country, we will accomplish much more than by passing general resolutions which will simply be printed and forgotten and nothing come of them. Therefore, I shall vote against this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS, of Cincinnati: I merely want to say one word, not to continue the discussion but to reply to those who object to providing for the contingencies of the future. I want to speak of what exists to-day in our navy and what this Bill will help to correct. One of the admirals of our navy made the statement a short time ago in the newspapers that our present navy very much more than half of it, I think three-quarters or seven-eighths—I was amazed at the proportion—at any rate a very large proportion of our present navy is foreign born, without any sort of pride in our flag or any sort of care for our ships. This admiral made the remark that in case of trouble, he did not feel that he could trust those men to stand by their guns. That is the case that exists at the present time without reference to any future need. If we had this system put in practice, or something similar to it, it would correct that state of affairs and put American born men, or men who are devoted to this country, into those vessels and thus strengthen us very much indeed.

Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee: I wish briefly to express my concurrence in the idea that this is a question outside of the province of this National Board of Trade. It seems to me it does not become us to discuss questions on which our knowledge is limited, and almost valueless, as compared with that of members of Congress. Questions about the defences of the country and the armed force necessary for the country, it ought to be supposed men who go to Congress, many of whom are trained statesmen, are vastly better able to deal with than we are who come from the ranks of business and mercantile pursuits. For one I wish to protest against the consideration of numerous questions of this class, which come before this Board from time to time; not only at this meeting, but at previous meetings. It is a waste of our time. It accom-

plishes nothing, for the expression we make carries no weight with it, because those to whom it goes know very well that they know better about these subjects than we do. The only thing we can expect to impress our influence upon Congress in relation to, is something we are better informed upon than the average member of Congress can be expected to be. If we wish to have any influence and have our resolutions received with consideration and respect, I think we should confine ourselves to that class of subjects.

In looking over this programme I find that only about one-third of the topics that are enumerated here come within the class we can reasonably be supposed to have better information upon, or better knowledge in relation to than Congress in general. It seems to me if we treat upon such subjects alone, we will have more influence, we will spend our time to better advantage, we will have the opportunity to digest those subjects more properly and will accomplish much better work. For that reason I hope we will not waste any further time in the discussion of this subject, but dispose of it immediately one way or the other.

MR. WALDO SMITH: In the first place I want to say that Admiral Porter, the head of our navy, is exceedingly anxious about this Bill. I could have read you his words from the paper I had in my hands. He thinks it an exceedingly important measure. Mr. WHITTHORN, the chairman of the Committee on naval affairs, is anxious to have the endorsement of this Board. That is the second statement. Third, a gun has been on exhibition in New York recently, which I have seen, that can be placed on board a ship in deep water and bombard and destroy New York City, lay it under perhaps thousands of millions of tribute for ransom. Ever since I have been a member of this Board we have discussed parallel questions: harbor defences, coast defences, all those matters pertaining to the defence of this nation. The four statements which I have just made I think should be sufficient to demonstrate the propriety of our supporting this measure.

MR. ROBY, of Rochester: I would like to be permitted to say a word or two on this subject. It was only yesterday it seems to me that we passed almost a unanimous resolution in favor of coast defences. I take it this is only a different way of defending

our coast from that of building fortifications along a great extent of territory three thousand miles in length. This is one of the best measures I think that has come before this body. It is one that has not yet been considered by Congress.

Mr. COWAN, of Louisville: Many of you have not forgotten that at the outbreak of the civil war our dependence was upon the militia organizations of the States. I have not forgotten that the captain of the company in which I enlisted was a militia captain. Without such officers we would have been unable to organize and go to the defence of the Government. I have not forgotten that during the war when I was a commanding officer, the War Department gave orders to the commander of the Army of the Potomac to admit recruiting officers for the navy; and that all captains of companies and commanders of regiments should give every facility to those recruiting officers of the navy to induce men to leave the army and enter the navy, because we had not sufficient men to man our vessels. I believe in a naval reserve as firmly as I believe in a militia reserve.

The question was taken on the adoption of the resolution, the Board divided and there were ayes, twenty-five; noes, eight. So the resolution was agreed to.

The SECRETARY read Proposition XXII from the Philadelphia Board of Trade, the National Board of Health, with the following resolution:

*Whereas*, The danger of contagion must increase year by year commensurate with the increase of population and the growth of facilities of travel: therefore,

*Resolved*, That the National Government should appropriate larger sums for carrying on the work of the National Board of Health, and that the efficiency of this Board should be increased by any legislation needed in the due exercise of its powers.

Mr. COATES, of Philadelphia: Mr. President, I suppose this matter requires no comment except that before we left Philadelphia, the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce sent to the Philadelphia Board of Trade a Bill that related to the National Board



of Health and quarantine matters. That Bill sought to do away with the present Board of Health and substitute another one. Our resolution refers to the building up and supporting of the present Board of Health. After conference with Mr. COLEMAN, we have agreed that our resolution shall be altered so that the word "the" in the third line shall be changed to "a," and therefore it will read :

*Resolved,* That the National Government should appropriate larger sums for carrying on the work of a National Board of Health.

We also ask leave to have the next article on the programme considered at the same time, and in place of it, substitute the following,—the first part of which was offered by the Philadelphia Board of Trade last year :

*Resolved,* That the public health requires the immediate enactment of proper quarantine regulations.

Then comes the following new resolution :

*Resolved,* That the enforcement of quarantine laws be left to the National Board of Health or a health commission.

Mr. COLEMAN, of New Orleans : Mr. President and gentlemen, I have been instructed specifically to vote for the establishment of a national bureau of health. After I arrived here, however, I appreciated the fact that we have to deal with general matters and not special matters or matters connected with particular locations. Therefore, in deference to that opinion, I assume the responsibility, as far as my Chamber is concerned, of coinciding with the Philadelphia Board of Trade and in seconding the resolution as offered by them. I will ask, however, the privilege and permission of submitting the data that I have before me, bearing on this question to be published in the proceedings of this Board. That does not commit this association at all, but at the same time it gives an opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans to disseminate among the business men of the United States, certain information thought by it to be important on this subject. (See the Appendix.)

The question was then taken on the passage of the

resolution as modified by the Philadelphia Board of Trade and it was agreed to, as follows :

*Whereas*, The danger of contagion must increase year by year commensurate with the increase of population and the growth of facilities of travel; therefore

*Resolved*, That the National Government should appropriate larger sums for carrying on the work of a National Board of Health, and that the efficiency of this Board should be increased by any legislation needed in the due exercise of its power.

*Resolved*, That the public health requires the immediate enactment of proper quarantine regulations by the National Government.

*Resolved*, That the enforcement of quarantine laws should be left to a National Board of Health or Health Commission.

The SECRETARY: We have now reached the end of the printed programme. The following resolution from the Wilmington, Delaware, Board of Trade is now in order :

*Whereas*, Since the universal abandonment of the Apprenticeship System, for American youth, in the manual arts and general mechanical industries, there has been an ever increasing necessity for the importation of foreign skilled labor, by reason of the dearth of such labor in the home market, thereby closing to Americans legitimate paths of industry and means of livelihood, and checking the development of native skill and ingenuity; while forcing vast numbers, against their natural aptitudes, into the overcrowded avenues of professional and mercantile pursuits, and

*Whereas*, It is believed that the establishment of National Trade Schools, on the apprenticeship principle, would directly remedy the evils hereinbefore described, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade hereby requests the National Builders' Exchange to appoint a committee of three to confer with a similar committee to be appointed from said Board of Trade, for the purpose of maturing plans for the concerted action of the two bodies in bringing before the Congress of the United States of America, the subject of the establishment of National Mechanical Trade Schools for apprentices, and the exertion of all legitimate influences for such legislation and appropriations as shall lead to the founding of said schools as permanent Government Institutions.

Mr. LOCKE, of Wilmington, Delaware: Mr. President, this question has been agitated largely by the National Builders' Exchange. The Board of Trade of Wilmington is interested particularly, that being a manufacturing city almost entirely, in the great

want of skilled laborers. It has now reached a point where it is almost impossible to get a place for an apprentice; almost impossible to get a skilled mechanic unless you import him. We find the same difficulty in my own business, that of a stone cutter. We have a large number of stone cutters at work, three-quarters of whom are foreign stone cutters. It is the desire of the Wilmington Board of Trade and also of the Builders' Exchange of Wilmington, that this National Board of Trade shall assist in perfecting some plan by which our American sons can obtain the necessary instructions so that they can go forward and become skilled workmen.

Mr. STRANAHAN: Mr. President, the proposition of the gentleman from Delaware is unquestionably a very important one, although it strikes the mind at first as somewhat novel. Instead of appointing a committee to urge upon Congress the measure, I suggest that we agree to the appointment of a committee to take up the subject and bring it before this body another year, with such facts as it may be able to present for the consideration of the Board. The subject is too novel and our time is too short to properly consider it at this time and vote intelligently upon it. I ask the gentleman to accept my suggestion.

Mr. LOCKE: I will accept the suggestion.

The PRESIDENT: The motion then is gentlemen that this proposition be referred to a committee of three to consider and report upon it at the next session of the Board.

The motion was agreed to.

The SECRETARY: The next proposition is from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, with the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its president to collect information as to the effect of trust organizations in this country on the interest of consumers, and their bearing upon the foreign and local commerce, and the industries of this country; said committee to report at the next meeting of the Board.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. COLEMAN, of New Orleans: Mr. President and gentlemen, I offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the United States consuls be appointed members of the United States Signal Service Bureau, and that Congress be asked to make due appropriations for the maintenance of said service, both in this country and in foreign ports.

The object of this resolution is to provide for securing the information necessary to apprise shipping of storms that may be occurring in countries east of us, south of us, or wherever the information can be obtained for the benefit of shipping as to storms which probably occur within twenty-four or thirty-six hours. Since the establishment of the American Signal Service a great deal of money has been saved to American shipping. We think it is perfectly practicable that the United States consuls, located at different points should, by a system of flags and other signals, notify the shipping of the danger that may occur to them should they go out from those ports. This matter is laid before the National Board of Trade, hoping they will see the importance of it and take such steps as are necessary.

The point of order was raised that the proposition was not properly before the Board, and was sustained by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: I believe gentlemen we have now finished the work allotted to our present session.

MR. STRANAHAN: I move Mr. President, without multiplying words, the usual resolution of thanks to the proprietor of this hotel for the comfortable quarters he has afforded us; and I also move that the thanks of this Board be tendered to the press for its interesting records touching the proceedings of this National Board of Trade, during its present session.

MR. WEISSINGER: I think it is due that a second should come from some gentleman from Kentucky, and I second the motion.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

MR. HOLLOWAY: I offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Board are due and are hereby tendered to our President and Secretary for the painstaking and able manner in which they have performed the duties allotted to them.

The resolution was put by Mr. WEISSINGER and unanimously agreed to by a rising vote.

The PRESIDENT: I announce the following committees:

On the Cental System, Mr. BACON, of Milwaukee, Mr. RUMSEY, of Chicago, Mr. MURRAY, of Cincinnati, Mr. MORGAN, of St. Louis, Mr. Tucker, of Philadelphia.

Mr. BACON: I ask that Mr. RUMSEY be made the chairman, in order that the chairmanship may be in Chicago.

The PRESIDENT: The change will be made. The Committee on Uniformity in State Laws will consist of Mr. GOODALE, of Cincinnati, Mr. PRICE, of Scranton, Mr. HIGGINS, of New York, Mr. POPE, of Chicago, Mr. WEISSINGER, of Louisville.

Mr. WEISSINGER: I move that we now adjourn to meet in Louisville at such time as shall be indicated by the President. In offering this resolution I only confirm what has already been done by the executive council; and I want to say to the gentlemen here present, that I shall carry back with me to my people the very best report of this body, and I assure you when you come to Louisville we will give you a hearty welcome.

The PRESIDENT: I will have to take a little more time, gentlemen, to complete all the committees that have been ordered.

Before putting the motion for the final adjournment of this Board, I may be permitted, I think, to congratulate my friends of the Board upon the successful session which we have had. We have agreed almost unanimously upon all the propositions that have been presented. We have continued together in the spirit of good fellowship. We have made new acquaintances, new friends. I hope the good God above us will bless us all with health and strength to perpetuate the labors of this Board, and when we meet together again in the good city of Louisville, may Providence again smile upon us and bless our labors. I bid you an affectionate farewell.

The Board then, at 1.35 P.M., adjourned *sine die*.

SUMMARY  
OF  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

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ADULTERATION.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade reaffirms its action regarding the necessity of a judicious national anti-adulteration law. (p. 33.)

A NEW EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

*Resolved*, That the fullest intelligence is requisite to the preservation of a proper equilibrium between the great industries of the country, and that the title of the Department of Agriculture be changed so as to be entitled the Department of Commerce, Agriculture and Industry, and that Congress be memorialized accordingly. (p. 44.)

ADULTERATION OF LARD.

*Whereas*, Rendered fat from the hog, in its pure state, has always been branded and known as lard, and under this name has become one of the necessities of life, universal in its use, unquestioned in its quality, and has grown to be one of the most important articles of export; and

*Whereas*, During the last few years competition among refiners and dealers has caused them to seek for cheap fats with which to adulterate lard for the purpose of underselling each other, thus causing large quantities of a compound made from the fats of the various animals and vegetables to be placed on the home market, shipped abroad, and branded lard; and

*Whereas*, Such adulteration of lard has grown to be a national scandal, and has seriously damaged the good name of American lard, both in this country and abroad; and

*Whereas*, A few years ago shippers and curers, in their anxiety to get business by underselling each other, made shipments to Europe of partially cured meats, which were branded "fully cured," thus giving a pretext to France and Germany to prohibit the importation of American hog meats, on the ground that they were infected with trichina, thereby placing an unjust stigma upon American meats, resulting in great loss to our agricultural interests and to our export trade; and

*Whereas*, Judging from the action of France and Germany against our meats, we fear the refiners abroad may induce foreign governments to prohibit the importation of all American lard, thus damaging the export trade

and diminishing the consumption of honest lard at home, to the financial detriment of the agricultural interests of this country, which to-day, own about fifty million hogs, worth over \$300,000,000, and further damaging America's good name in the commerce of the world;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends to the Congress of the United States, the enactment of such laws and regulations as will compel all refiners and dealers to brand all adulterated lard "Compound lard," or with some brand such as will plainly distinguish the pure from the impure article, in order that the consumers at home and abroad may know the one from the other. (pp. 45, 46.)

#### MONTHLY CROP BULLETINS.

*Whereas*, The annual appropriations made by Congress for the use of the Agricultural Bureau have been insufficient to enable the Bureau to make such outlay as seems to be requisite to insure the necessary completeness and accuracy of its monthly estimates of the area and condition of the various crops of the country and the desired promptitude in publishing the same; therefore

*Resolved*, That Congress be memorialized by this Board to make such appropriations for the use of this Bureau or the newly established Department of Agriculture as may be deemed necessary for the purpose by the head of said Bureau or Department; and further

*Resolved*, That the Bureau or Department be respectfully requested to take into consideration the expediency of establishing agencies at the several State capitals, whose duty it shall be to collect and collate statistical information and transmit the result to the Bureau or Department by telegraph, with a view to securing the more expeditious compilation of the same and the publication of the general result for the country at large not later than the fifth day of each month. (pp. 59, 60.)

#### THE CENTAL SYSTEM.

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to legalize the cental system for transactions in grain, seeds and kindred products, with a view to the introduction of this system in place of the bushel measure, and that the commercial organizations of the country be urged to adopt and put into effect such system; also, that in place of the present measure by gallon for liquids, such as oils, spirits, syrups, etc., a system of weights be similarly authorized and adopted. (p. 75.)

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to carry into effect the proposition adopted by this Board favoring the adoption of the cental system of weight in transactions in grain, seeds, and other commodities to which it is applicable, by securing the co-operation of the individual commercial organizations of the country, and the recommendation to favorable action on the part of representatives in Congress from their respective districts. (pp. 135. 136.)

## SUITS IN THE UNITED STATES COURTS.

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to so amend the law allowing non-residents to bring suits in the United States Courts as to permit suits to be brought where the amount of five hundred dollars and over is involved, instead of two thousand dollars, as now. (p. 76.)

## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

*Resolved*, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully memorialized to continue to make, from time to time, ample appropriations for the judicious improvement of all its principal rivers, harbors and waterways, and especially that important works of improvement already begun may not be stopped for want of necessary funds for their continuance and completion, thereby incurring waste, damage, and ultimate increased cost of the work, and unnecessary delay in making such improvements available. (p. 80.)

## DIVERSITY IN COMMERCIAL LAWS IN THE STATES.

*Resolved*, That the question of the diversity of the laws of the various States of the Union in reference to charters of corporations, the collection of debts, the forms and certification of deeds and other important papers relative to conveyances and contracts, the regulation of insurance, and kindred matters, be continued on the programme of the National Board of Trade, and that a committee of five delegates be appointed by the President, to take the subject under consideration, to confer with committees of the American and the National Bar Associations, and to report at the next meeting of the Board. (p. 99.)

## A NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY LAW.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade recommends the enactment by Congress of an equitable Bankruptcy Law. (p. 102.)

## FOREIGN STATISTICS OF INDEBTEDNESS.

*Resolved*, That the committee on the credit system be instructed to formulate a series of questions as to mortgage indebtedness, partial payments, limitation of security, and the methods of collection and cancellation of mortgages in foreign countries, to be propounded to the consuls of the Government, and respectfully request the co-operation of the State Department therein. (p. 114.)

## COAST AND HARBOR DEFENCE.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade memorialize Congress to provide immediately such defences as will be necessary, in the event of war, to thoroughly protect our sea, gulf and lake coasts and harbors. (p. 134.)



## THE SURPLUS REVENUE.

*Resolved*, That business men should unite in demanding early action by Congress to reduce our present revenues in a way which will least embarrass existing industries. (p. 135.)

## REGULATION OF IMMIGRATION.

*Whereas*, The increasing facilities of transportation render our country continually more and more accessible to foreign disease, pauperism and crime; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That preventive measures against this evil should be increased, and that the reception of paupers, helpless invalids and criminals is not a necessary part of our free institutions nor demanded by national hospitality. (p. 141.)

## AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE.

*Resolved*, That every legitimate means to foster our merchant marine should be adopted by Congress. (p. 147.)

## SILVER COINAGE.

*Whereas*, The present coinage of Silver Dollars, in connection with other forms of currency, is sufficient for all the requirements of the domestic trade and commerce of the United States; and

*Whereas*, The profits which result from this coinage, and which are counted as part of the annual income of the Government, are not a legitimate source of revenue under the Constitution of the United States; and

*Whereas*, When the condition of foreign exchanges may require the export of precious metals, these dollars cannot, on account of their over valuation, be sent abroad without ruinous loss to all classes of the population; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Congress should be memorialized to provide by law for the suspension of the purchase of silver bullion, and of the coinage of Silver Dollars. (p. 152.)

## BASIS FOR NATIONAL BANKING.

*Whereas*, The National Banking System provides a stable and uniform currency, and by diminishing the cost of internal exchange greatly benefits all classes of the community; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we solicit Congress to make such an adjustment of the remaining National Bonds as will provide an adequate security and permit an extension of the life of the National Banks. (p. 157.)

## NATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR BANKS.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five delegates to the National Board of Trade be appointed by its President to consider and report upon the feasibility

and practicability of the establishment of a National Clearing House Association for banks, under the direction and control of local clearing house associations in the various cities of the United States. (pp. 157, 158.)

#### LETTER POSTAGE.

*Whereas*, The usefulness of our postal system depends in a great degree upon its cheapness; and

*Whereas*, Each successive reduction in the rate of postage has within a short time developed an astonishing increase of business and enhanced the usefulness of our postal system to the people; and

*Whereas*, A bill is now pending in Congress reducing letter postage to one cent;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade favors the passage of said bill, believing that even if it should result in a temporary deficit in our postal department, the revenues of the nation justify it. (pp. 159, 160.)

#### RIGHTS UNDER BILLS OF LADING.

*Whereas*, There are many different forms used for consigning property; and

*Whereas*, It is necessary to establish the rights of the holders of bills of lading, and also the common carrier's liability thereunder;

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade requests the Congress of the United States to amend the Inter-State Commerce Act so that all common carriers subject to the provisions of said act shall, upon the request of the consignor, make their contract or bill of lading for property to be transported,

To the order of . . . . .

Notify . . . . .

and to further legalize this form of consignment, it shall be unlawful for any common carriers to make delivery of property so consigned, except upon the return of the contract or bill of lading covering the same, properly endorsed. (p. 162.)

#### UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE.

*Resolved*, That the National Board of Trade favors the proposition to organize a naval reserve for the United States, to consist of officers and men from the mercantile marine, yachtsmen, ex-naval and ex-marine-revenue officers and watermen generally, and of vessels to be built with reference to their use in the time of war as auxiliary to the regular navy. (p. 163.)

#### A NATIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

*Whereas*, The danger of contagion must increase year by year commensurate with the increase of population and the growth of facilities of travel; therefore

*Resolved*, That the National Government should appropriate larger sums for carrying on the work of a National Board of Health, and that the effi-

ciency of this Board should be increased by any legislation needed in the due exercise of its powers. (p. 171.)

#### QUARANTINE LAWS.

*Resolved*, That the public health requires the immediate enactment of proper quarantine regulations by the National Government, and that the enforcement of quarantine laws should be left to a National Board of Health or to a Health Commission. (p. 171.)

#### TRUST ORGANIZATIONS.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five delegates be appointed by the President to collect information as to the effect of trust organizations in this country on the interests of consumers, and their bearing upon the foreign and local commerce and the industries of the country; said committee to report at the next meeting of the Board. (p. 172.)

## APPENDIX.

The following Bill was prepared by a Committee of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce :

### A BILL TO CREATE A BUREAU OF HEALTH AND TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND EXTENSION OF CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled :*

**SECTION 1.** There shall be established in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Health.

There shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Chief Commissioner of Health of the United States, who shall, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, organize and manage the Bureau of Health herein established, and may employ such assistants and clerks as may be necessary, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior shall provide suitable offices for the Bureau of Health. The Chief Commissioner of Health of the United States shall be paid an annual salary of \$5,000, and shall hold his office until he shall have attained the age of seventy years, unless sooner removed by the President.

**SEC. 2.** There shall be appointed by the President, a Health Commission, to be composed of twenty members, to be divided into six sections, as follows : five commissioners for the (1) yellow fever section ; three commissioners for each of the following sections : (2) cholera section, 3 ; (3) typhoid fever section, 3 ; (4) scarlet fever section, 3 ; (5) smallpox section, 3 ; (6) diphtheria section, 3. The members of each section shall be experts in the disease to which his section is devoted. Each commissioner shall receive an annual salary of \$1,200, and may reside at his usual residence, except when called into active duty under the provisions of this act.

These several sections shall be charged with directing the investigation by the Commissioner of Health into the cause, origin and mode of extension and measures to prevent the respective diseases to which they are named. Each section shall formulate methods and rules for the prevention of the respective diseases with which they are charged, to be submitted for the revision and approval of the whole Health Commission at its annual meeting hereinafter provided for.

**SEC. 3.** The entire Health Commission shall meet annually in Washington, D. C., in the month of April, on a day to be fixed by the Chief Commissioner of Health of the United States, and at its sessions he shall preside, and at said annual session the Health Commission shall adopt plans for the prevention of the introduction into the United States of contagious and epidemic diseases, and the prevention of their spread, and make rules and regulations for inter-state quarantine, and for the non-interference with inter-state communication during a threatened epidemic, and preparations for the suppression of a threatened epidemic.

**SEC. 4.** Whenever an epidemic of (1) yellow fever, (2) cholera, (3) typhoid fever, (4) scarlet fever, (5) smallpox, or (6) diphtheria, is threatened, and the Governor of any State shall call upon the Chief Commissioner of Health of the United States to that end, he shall immediately, with the assistance of the section of the Health Commission, devoted to that particular

disease, enforce and carry out the methods, rules, and regulations adopted by the Health Commission for that disease, under the third section of this act, and, as far as possible, in co-operation with the local and State sanitary authorities, and to that end the section of the Health Commission so called into action shall have the disbursement of the federal appropriation for the prevention and suppression of contagious diseases on the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. The Bureau of Health and the Chief Commissioner of Health and section of the Health Commission, called into active duty, under the foregoing provisions, shall co-operate with, and, so far as it lawfully may, aid State and municipal boards of health in the execution and enforcement of the rules and regulations of such boards to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States from foreign countries and into one State from another.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Bureau of Health to obtain information of the sanitary condition of foreign ports and places from which contagious and infectious diseases may be imported into the United States, and to this end the consular officers of the United States at such ports and places as shall be designated by the Chief Commissioner of Health, shall make to him weekly reports of the sanitary condition of the ports or places at which they are respectively stationed, according to such forms as he may prescribe; and the Bureau of Health shall also obtain, through all sources accessible, weekly reports of the sanitary condition of ports and places within the United States, and shall make investigations into the nature, cause, origin and means of prevention of contagious and epidemic diseases as well as the causes and conditions of particular outbreaks of such diseases in the United States, and shall publish and transmit to the medical officers of the Marine Hospital Service, to collectors of customs, and to State and municipal health officers and authorities, weekly abstracts of its sanitary reports; and to them and to the public, as far as possible, the results of its investigations into the causes and means of prevention of epidemic diseases; and it shall make to the Secretary of the Interior an annual report of its operations with such recommendations as it may deem important for transmission to Congress.

SEC. 7. The Bureau of Health shall annually issue to the consular officers of the United States, and to the medical officers serving at any foreign port, and otherwise make publicly known the rules and regulations made by the Health Commission for the prevention of the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States and from one State into another. Consuls shall promulgate such rules in their respective ports and places, and shall promptly inform the Chief Commissioner of Health of the United States when any vessel destined to a port of the United States has not obeyed such rules.

SEC. 8. The President is authorized, when requested by the section of the Health Commission called into active duty, or by the Chief Commissioner of Health, to detail officers from the several departments of the Government or employ persons from civil life for temporary duty, to act under the direction of said Chief Commissioner of Health or section of the Health Commission on active duty, to carry out the provisions of this act and the rules adopted by the Health Commission; and such officers shall receive no additional compensation except for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties.

SEC. 9. The members of the Health Commission, when attending the annual session, shall be paid their actual expenses, going and returning, and the members of the section called into active duty, under section three, shall be paid their actual expenses while engaged in such active duty.

SEC. 10. It shall be unlawful for any merchant ship or vessel, from any foreign port where any contagious or infectious disease exists, or having on board any infectious disease, to enter any port of the United States, except in accordance with the rules adopted by the Health Commission, and the

certificate of the United States consul at such port shall be *prima facie* evidence of the existence of such disease in the foreign port where he is stationed. Any such vessel, which shall enter or attempt to enter a port of the United States in violation of this act shall forfeit to the United States a sum to be awarded in the discretion of the court, not exceeding \$1,000, which shall be a lien upon said vessel, to be recovered in any District Court of the United States where said vessel may be found. In all such proceedings the United States District Attorney for such district shall appear on behalf of the United States, and all such proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the laws and rules governing cases of seizure of vessels for violation of the revenue laws of the United States.

SEC. 11. It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct commerce or intercourse between the States or between the United States and foreign countries, except in accordance with the rules of the Health Commission, or to obstruct the section of the Health Commission, when called into active duty, in the performance of its duties, and any violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor, and on conviction, the person so offending shall be fined not exceeding \$1,000, and imprisoned not exceeding six months, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 12. To pay the first year's salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Health and Health Commission, the sum of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to be disbursed under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior on estimates to be made by the Chief Commissioner of Health, and to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

In case of an epidemic of a contagious or infectious disease, and a section of the Health Commission is called into active duty, the sum of \$500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to be drawn and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to enable such section of the Health Commission called into active duty to suppress the disease and prevent its spread, and to enforce the rules of the Health Commission, provided for and adopted under section three.

SEC. 13. The following acts are repealed: (1) An act to prevent the introduction of contagious or infectious diseases into the United States. Approved 29th April, 1878, (chap. 66, p. 37, vol. 20). (2) An act to prevent the introduction of infectious or contagious diseases into the United States and to establish a National Board of Health. Approved 3d March, 1879, (chap. 202, vol. 20, p. 484). (3) An act to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States. Approved 2d June, 1879, (chap. 11, vol. 21, p. 5).

The following letter was addressed by Dr. WILKINSON, President of the Louisiana Board of Health, to the Hon. H. DUDLEY COLEMAN, President of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce:—

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 13th, 1888.

*Dear Sir:*—In answer to your inquiry of my views relative to National Legislation advisable in the matter of prevention of the importation into our country of contagious diseases, and their suppression, should any or all of them gain an entrance, I will say:

1st. The necessity of a National Health Bureau is felt all over the land.

2nd. The necessity of a National Quarantine Service, or Quarantine restrictions, is confined to some few ports, and all legislation by the General Government must, from the organization of that Government, be uniform in its provisions, affecting alike the ports of Portland, Maine, Portland, Oregon, and New Orleans, La.

The different climatic and geographical situations of these places render uniform quarantine practice undesirable. An act has already passed both houses of Congress, and has the approval of the President, locating six National Quarantine Stations, two of these being in the Gulf of Mexico. None of these stations are being equipped up to the standard of modern science, and unless some immediate improvement is made the management of them should be placed in other hands.

A National Bureau of Health should be organized in the Department of the Interior, free from control of either Army, Navy or Marine Hospital Service, composed of the best material obtainable, whether from these branches of the Government or from civil life. This Bureau should be permanent, and the members thereof properly compensated. The duties of this Bureau should be to inquire into the origin, cause, methods of propagation, manner of repression and extinction of diseases of human beings, and matters germane. Part of its duties, also, should be the creation of a commission, say five members, to investigate into and report upon the quarantine methods of the various ports of the country, and to prescribe methods to be placed in operation at the various quarantine stations of the general government, now building.

Weekly reports should be required to be made to this Bureau from Military and Naval stations, from Marine Hospitals, from Consuls and Consular agents at foreign ports, and requested from all local, municipal and state Boards of Health, of sanitary measures, prevailing diseases, etc., at such localities. This infor-

mation should be classified, tabulated, published and distributed to such places within the United States as may be deemed advisable.

Also, this Bureau should provide suitable disinfecting apparatus erected on platform cars to be rapidly moved to such point as may develop a case of smallpox, cholera, or yellow fever, within the United States, and provide some 5,000 tents, or some 1,000 box cabins, to be quickly erected should it be necessary to empty a town or village for better disinfection should any such place become infected, and threaten the general welfare. A sufficient sum of money, say \$100,000, should be appropriated and held in reserve for the purpose.

When the National Quarantine Stations, now building, shall become equipped with the best disinfecting appliances, the collectors of customs should be instructed to refuse entry to all vessels from tropical ports into towns or harbors within the United States, whose quarantine service does not receive the endorsement and approval of the Quarantine Commission, unless said vessels shall have undergone the quarantine process prescribed at the National Stations.

The above presents itself as solving the question of State and United States rights in the premises.

Very truly yours,

C. P. WILKINSON, M. D.,  
*President Board of Health, State of Louisiana.*





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